

Page 11 **We have done our best on peace and security** -Lalong



'One million people affected by drugs' Page 10

Don to APC, put house in order Page 28

Moghalu resigns membership of ADC Page 2

THE Nigeria Standard



FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1972

VOL. 13 NO. 738

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022

N200

Email: nigeriastandarddailynewspaper@yahoo.com

'Vote only credible leaders'

The Coalition of Northern Groups (CNG), has strongly advised Nigerians, especially northerners, to vote for credible leaders at all levels irrespective of their political parties during the 2023 elections.

The Chairman Board of Trustees of the CNG, Mr. Nastura Ashraf, gave the advice Monday, during a press conference in Kano. Ashraf said that the CNG has noted that the politics of the country has taken a new dimension of deceiving electorates not to waste their votes by voting for political parties that are not the Peoples' Democratic

Party (PDP) and the All Progressives Congress (APC). According to him, there are credible candidates to be elected in other political parties who are better than those in APC and PDP, adding that Nigerians should not be hoodwinked into voting for only the two major political parties in

-CNG
the 2023 elections and beyond. He said: "Our advice to Nigerians, especially northerners is that, ahead of the 2023 elections, they should think critically to elect leaders whom they believed will stand for them in the time of
Cont'd on Page 2

PTS graduates 175 spies

The Police Training School (PTS) Ikeja, on Monday, graduated six PhD holders and 169 others, from different professions, into several ranks of the Nigerian Police Force as supernumeraries (Spies). Deputy Commissioner of Police and Commandant, PTS Ikeja, Musa Garba, said at the 2022 graduation for the spy police officers, that 175 supernumeraries were promoted into various ranks, having completed their advanced course. They were promoted to the ranks of Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP), Superintendent of Police (SP), Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) and Inspectors.

The six PhD holders promoted into the cadre of CSP are Dr Peter Akhidenno, Dr Elvis Ootobo, Dr Kehinde Oduns, Dr Glory Raphael, Dr Goodluck Enimakpokpo
Cont'd on Page 2



Yahaya

100m Nigerians are unemployed - obi

The Presidential Candidate of the Labour Party for the 2023 general elections, Mr Peter Obi, on Monday stated that the unemployment of 100 million Nigerians was responsible for the widespread poverty in the country. Obi spoke at a one-day international colloquium in Port Harcourt organised by Christ Church for the

presidential candidates of the different political parties, with the theme "What Do Nigerians Want?" He said that a country that turned its people into poverty would be faced with crises, unemployment and insecurity. "There is no way you will have 100million people living in poverty and you will not have crises, we have more people living in poverty than China and Egypt combined, a population of about 1.5 billion. "There is no where you won't have this crisis we are going through with 35 to 40 per cent
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Nigeria's President, Muhammadu Buhari (middle) in a group photograph with former president, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, Senate President, Dr. Ahmad Lawan, Speaker, House of Reps, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabamila, CJN, Justice Ibrahim Tanko Mohammed, APC National Chairman, Sen. Abdullahi Adamu and others on Monday during this years' Democracy Day celebration at the Eagle Square, Abuja
PHOTO: STATE HOUSE PRESS, ABUJA



Yahaya

Ohanaeze youth threaten fire and brimstone

The Apex Igbo Socio-cultural Youth Organisation of Ohanaeze Ndigbo Worldwide, Ohanaeze Youth Council (OYC), has declared political war against all the

Igbo delegates that voted against aspirants from Southeastern part of the country in the recently concluded PDP and APC presidential primaries. The group x-rayed the

height of betrayal and sabotage by what it described as, "a few microscopic political elements to enslave the present and future generations of Igbo

extraction, the Council resolved that Igbo land is not habitable for all these enemies of Ndigbo." Addressing newsmen, shortly after the Council's meeting, the National

President of OYC, Comrade Igboayaka O. Igboayaka, lamented on how Southeast delegates sold the future of their children and unborn generation in the course of
Cont'd on Page 2

News

'Vote only credible leaders' -NCG**Cont'd from Page 1**

hardship and protect their lives and property.

"Nigerians should consider track record of the candidates, irrespective of their political parties, to see if they previously led

you well.

"We have noticed some section of the country deceiving people not to vote for credible candidates but political parties. This is baseless.

"Our call to Nigerians, especially northerners, is to

vote for credible candidates at any party, not necessarily APC or PDP. That is the aim of this press conference."

The group also expressed fear over possible voter apathy in northern Nigeria due to reported lower participation in the ongoing voters' registration.

The CNG, therefore, called on the northerners to go out *en masse* to get their Personal Voter's Cards (PVCs) to elect credible leaders.

"We caution the north against voter apathy in the coming elections and to strongly call on northerners to register massively for PVCs as the only sure way of electing a leadership that will address our limitations," he said.

Ohanaeze youth threaten fire and brimstone**Cont'd from Page 1**

the recently concluded primary elections of the leading parties in the country.

The Council, therefore, insisted on what it termed, "political and ballot revolution in the South-East region and Nigeria in general", saying, "we, therefore, give PDP and APC delegates in 2022 presidential primaries, apart from the 14 PDP delegates from Ebonyi, 38 APC delegates from Ebonyi and One APC delegate vote that came from Imo State, voted by Prof. Chinwe Obaji, all the others should vacate from Igbo land within 72 hours."

The Council said: "It is a clear betrayal and historical sabotage for delegates, whom we assigned to go and vote Southeast aspirants, to go to Eagle Square, Abuja and sell the future of our children. This is a typical breach of trust and they have shown that they can't be trusted with leadership mandate in Igbo land.

"As we anticipate political and ballot revolution in Southeast and Nigeria at large, we, therefore, give PDP and APC delegates in the 2022 presidential primaries, apart from the 14 PDP delegates from Ebonyi, 38 APC delegates from Ebonyi and One APC delegate vote that came from Imo State, voted by Prof. Chinwe Obaji, all the others should vacate Igbo land within 72 hours.

Certainly, there will be "Egwu Surugedee" against Southeast presidential delegates.

"It is important that Sam Daddy Anyanwu, PDP National Secretary, Emeka Ihedioha, Prof Udenta Udenta, Gov. Okezie Ikpeazu, Gov Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi, Ifeanyi Ararume, Sam Okire, Mrs Uju Kennedy Ohanenye, Hope Uzodinma, Orji Uzor Kalu and other saboteurs, who sold us to Bola Tinubu, Ahmad Lawan and Atiku Abubakar, have murdered sleep and will not sleep again.

Unfortunately, Gov. Hope Uzodinma, who used our

women as delegates to collect ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) from Chibuike Amaechi and ended up giving the women Three hundred thousand naira (N300,000), yet he told the delegates to vote for Ahmad Lawan, this is another height of greed and primitive accumulation of wealth and a deliberate betrayal to Ndigbo by Gov Hope Uzodinma and his cohorts.

"The betrayal by Gov Hope Uzodinma, Gov. Okezie Ikpeazu, Gov. Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi, Ifeanyi Ararume Prof Udenta Udenta, Sam Daddy Nnaemeka Anyanwu, Southeast and Co, against Southeast shall be carved down in stone as a memory that will, not only hunt them, but will hunt their children's children. Ndigbo will not forget this excruciating political experience by these political vampires, political cannibals and agents of darkness in Igbo.

"We earnestly pray that God will root them out from Igbo land, as we prepare for a new political emancipation from the shackles of political mediocrity and injury they have caused us.

"We shall in due time make public, the names of all delegates, saboteurs and other stakeholders saboteurs that betrayed South East in the 2022 presidential primary elections. We are watching closely on those set to betray Ndi Igbo come 2023.

The Council, therefore, enjoined political stakeholders from the region to solidarise with Mr Peter Obi, the presidential candidate for Labour Party, to ensure his victory in the forthcoming general elections.

"We, therefore, advise South East political stakeholders and politicians to immediately key into the presidential project of Mr Peter Obi, we warn Southeast politicians that any attempt to sabotage Peter Obi's presidential election, will come with great consequences."

Cont'd from Page 1

unemployment rate. When compared to the 120 million people who are supposed to be working in Nigeria today, only 40 million are gainfully employed.

"We have 80 million people who are supposed to be working in the country that are not working.

"The consequence is that we have a state but is unproductive. Nigeria as a country is unproductive because when we talk about 80million people that are not working, about 70 percent of them is made up of the youth in their productive age doing nothing and with so much tendencies.

He said the nation was in crisis because more than 90 percent of its revenue is to used for debt service,

100m Nigerians are unemployed - obi

noting that no country or individual could survive with that.

"Last year virtually all the money we spent was borrowed. The first five months of last year, our total revenue was N1.847trillion. We spent N1.802 trillion into servicing debt, so a total of 200million people were left with N45billion", he said.

Obi said that the country needed to be taken back from where it was now and that required a number of things.

He promised to stop the bleeding of the country, if elected in 2023.

He said any money borrowed by Nigeria would be used for investment, adding "our country has to

move from sharing formula to production formula.

"We are not productive because our factories are not working. We need to bring back the country by focusing on our micro small businesses to be able to support them and is not difficult.

"We need to do something to power, if we get it right and start borrowing for investment, that is when we start pulling people out of poverty, the more we pull people out of poverty, the more we reduce criminality.

"Another is in education, our human capital is very low and is unacceptable. We are now 152 out of 158 in human capital development," Obi said.

(NAN)**Moghalu resigns membership of ADC**

Former deputy governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Kingsley Moghalu, has resigned his membership of the African Democratic Congress (ADC).

His resignation comes days after he lost the presidential primary to Dumebi Kachikwu.

In a letter to ADC chairman, Okey Nwosu, Moghalu said he was leaving the party because of alleged infractions during the primary election.

"I am writing to hand in my resignation from my membership of the African Democratic Congress, effective immediately.

**Moghalu**

"I have resigned because the process and conduct of the party's presidential primary on June 8, 2022, at Abeokuta revealed a fundamental clash of values between me and

your leadership of the party", the letter said.

Moghalu also alleged that the party played 'cash-and-carry' politics, which is why he has "consistently resisted pressures to join

the APC or the PDP."

"I joined the ADC in October 2021 with the best of intentions. Since then, I have put my entire team to work on growing and improving the party, including raising the party's visibility on all media platforms, recruiting more than 10,000 new members to the party, and providing new offices for various state chapters of the party at my expense.

"It is deeply regrettable that other inducements appear to have played more important roles in determining the outcome of the primary than loyalty to the party", he added.

PTS graduates 175 spies**Cont'd from Page 1**

and Dr Adaramewa Olusuyi.

Garba said that the promotion of the officers was based on merit, as the supernumeraries had been equipped with training that would assist them to perform their duties diligently.

He noted that the new rank attained by the officers came with greater responsibilities to themselves; to their organisations; to their communities; to the police force and to the society at large.

"Your actions and utterances henceforth, must be well-guided by the Police Force Act, as you must exhibit high moral standards and ethical discipline that you have received during your trainings here", he said, warning that, any of the supernumeraries caught in any criminal activity will face disciplinary actions in line with the Police Act.

Garba charged the graduating supernumeraries to report to police stations

nearest to them to familiarise themselves with the officers in charge.

This, he said, would help to build an understanding between them and other spies, as well as regular police officers.

He appreciated the Inspector-General Police for his support to the PTS, which has culminated in the growth and development of the school.

"I thank you all for sparing your time to learn about the operation of the police with an intention of assisting in the discharge of their duties", he said.

The PTS Headmaster, SP Kabiru Momoh, said the only difference between regular police officers and the supernumeraries was that the latter were not allowed to bear arms.

Momoh said the spies were usually enrolled in the PTS by organisations or agencies to be trained as professional officers of the Nigeria Police Force and used when there is shortage of regular police officers'

"Many of them work in government agencies, multinationals, and organisations as escorts, internal security officers, intelligence officers, and financial officers, to detect fraud, corruption, threats and irregularities in their financial or daily operations", he said.

Responding on behalf of other graduating officers, Samuel Ajiboyede, appreciated the PTS commandant for his humility, style of leadership and commitment to the ideals of the school.

Ajiboyede promised on behalf of his colleagues, that the graduating spies would be good ambassadors of the PTS and would continue to support the police in various capacities to effectively discharge their duties.

Also, one of the PhD holders, Dr Enimakpokpo, said that increase in the level of insecurity had made security become everybody's business, hence; their enrollment at the PTS.

Enimakpokpo, also Head of Sales, General Electrics, Nigeria/Anglophone countries, stated that they began with a three-month basic course and proceeded for the Refresher course for five weeks before their graduation.

He explained that they were trained on professional policing, law enforcement, arrest, terrorism and about 70 percent of what the regular police do.

He added that his perception about the regular Nigerian police officers has changed for the better, since the training.

"Contrary to our perception, the police are a disciplined, responsible, human relations profession and indeed, our friend as proclaimed.

"I recommend that Nigerians should undertake this training at the PTS, so that they can understand the operations of the police and help them to showcase their good works outside", Dr Enimakpokpo said.



Business & Economy

World Food Safety Day: Is our food safe?

Food is essential for all humans and animals to have a healthy, reproductive, and productive life. Sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food are vital for supporting life and maintaining excellent health. BUSAYO ADEROUNMU writes.

THE United Nations earmarked the 7th of June yearly as the world food safety day. The day's goal is to raise awareness and encourage people to take the necessary precautions to avoid, detect, and manage foodborne illnesses. Foodborne diseases are most commonly caused by poor personal hygiene. This year's theme focused on "Safer food, better health."

Food is essential for all humans and animals to have a healthy, reproductive, and productive life. Sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food are vital for supporting life and maintaining excellent health.

When humans consume safe food and are in excellent health, they are incredibly active and productive; nevertheless, consuming food that has already been contaminated with microbial pathogens can cause severe illnesses and even death.

An unsettled stomach, nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, diarrhea, fever, and dehydration indicate contaminated food consumption and these symptoms can emerge as soon as 30 minutes after consuming contaminated food or take many days to appear. Some severe instances may necessitate admission to a hospital.

Foodborne infections have colossal health and socioeconomic consequences, including lost productivity and reduced quality of life. More than 200 ailments, ranging from diarrhea to cancer, are caused by contaminated food carrying hazardous bacteria, viruses, parasites, or chemical compounds. It also feeds a vicious cycle of disease and hunger that disproportionately affects newborns, small children, pregnant women, the elderly, and the sick.

Food poisoning can affect anyone, but certain groups are more prone to become unwell and suffer from a more severe sickness. For various reasons, their bodies' ability to resist infections and illness is less effective. These people make up these groups: adults above 65 years of age, children under the age of five years, pregnant women, and people with a weak immune system.

Thus, foodborne diseases impede socioeconomic development by



damaging healthcare systems and negatively impacting country economies, tourism, and trade. At the same time, food safety helps promote national economies, trade, and tourism, as well as food and nutrition security and long-term development.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has developed five critical components for making food safer. Cleaning, separating raw and prepared food, cooking properly, keeping food at safe temperatures, and using safe water and raw materials are all crucial.

Despite attempts by the government and non-governmental organisations to limit the spread of foodborne pathogens, worldwide, an annual estimate of 600 million individuals – about one in every ten people – become unwell after eating contaminated food, with 420 000 deaths, resulting in the loss of 33 million healthy life years.

In low- and middle-income nations, hazardous food costs billions of dollars in lost productivity and medical costs each year.

Nigeria, as a developing country and Africa's most populated country, faces huge issues regarding food safety culture as the frequency of foodborne infections in the country remains disturbing. Foodborne sickness affects 40 percent of children under five, resulting in 125 000 fatalities each year.

In Nigeria, a large segment of the population, primarily low-income earners, is more concerned about cost-cutting and convenience than food safety, quality, and hygiene. Most people (low-income workers, shoppers, travellers, and schoolchildren) eat food outside their homes at least once a day. Food vendors on the street are the favoured food destination for these

people, as their primary goal is to satisfy their hunger with little regard for the safety or nutritional content of such street foods.

To serve their consumers, these foods are moved around on food-laden carts, wheelbarrows, or specially-designed bicycles from one site to another. Others run their businesses out of little stalls and batches or carry meals on their heads.

Unfortunately, improper food handling procedures have grown typical among these street food vendors, with items being cooked, baked, or processed in filthy conditions. While many consumers and food businesses want to improve their food safety procedures, the necessary infrastructure to support safe food handling methods has been lacking.

Because of the prevalence of impurities such as stones, bits of wood, and rats dropping in garri (a fine food derived from the tuberous roots of the cassava plant), rice, and palm oil, both literate and uneducated customers should be worried about the safety and quality of food.

In addition, farmers swiftly harvest and sell products, including bananas, sugar cane, vegetables, and pineapple to avoid rotting due to insufficient storage facilities. Such farm goods may eventually be sold for a low price under rotting circumstances, raising the risk of food poisoning and infection from bacterial and fungal contamination. Maize, cottonseed, groundnut, cocoa, and plantain are among the farm products that are dried and stored in bags and tins to protect

their safety and quality for future sale.

Furthermore, many communities and food businesses, for example, lack: adequate means of washing and drying utensils and equipment; appropriate hygienic design lavatories; sufficient facilities for food storage, ingredients, and non-food chemicals; and proper drainage and waste disposal systems. For the few towns with some of these facilities, inadequate maintenance culture is also a concern.

To avoid spreading foodborne infections, food handlers and vendors must maintain proper personal cleanliness, conduct frequent health checks, improve environmental sanitation, and adequately prepare food.

Also, to reduce the risk of foodborne infections and diseases, consumers of ready-to-eat foods and products should evaluate the overall safety of the food, the environment it was manufactured, and where and how the food is disseminated.

The government also has to enforce an effective policy that can enhance food safety like the hand washing procedures, and a no bare-hand contact policy with ready-to-eat items.

In conclusion, to promote food safety and a healthy lifestyle, we all have a role to play in ensuring food safety before consuming any food item. Governments, producers, and consumers must therefore work together effectively to ensure food safety in the country.

Busayo Aderounmu is an economist and researcher.

Source: *Businessday*

In Nigeria, a large segment of the population, primarily low-income earners, is more concerned about cost-cutting and convenience than food safety, quality, and hygiene. Most people (low-income workers, shoppers, travellers, and schoolchildren) eat food outside their homes at least once a day. Food vendors on the street are the favoured food destination for these people, as their primary goal is to satisfy their hunger with little regard for the safety or nutritional content of such street foods.



Business & Economy

National power grid crashes from 3,703MW to 9MW

The Nigeria Electricity System Operator, an arm of the Federal Government's power transmission company, recent report has shown that the national electricity grid actually crashed from a peak of 3,703 megawatts to as low as 9MW on Sunday.

There was widespread blackout in Nigeria on Sunday after the national grid collapsed around 6.49pm. Engineers from the Transmission Company of Nigeria worked to restore power to the grid.

It was the fifth grid collapse in 2022, a development which forced many power distribution companies to shut down their various outgoing electricity feeders.

Data sourced from the NESO on Monday in Abuja, which showed the performance of the national grid on Sunday, indicated that the peak generation on Sunday of 3,703MW was recorded at 5am.

But this crashed to 9MW at 7pm on Sunday, according to the NESO, leading to the eventual collapse of the national grid.

Various Discos including Enugu Electricity Distribution Company Plc, Abuja Electricity Distribution Company, Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company, among others, had confirmed the grid collapse in various messages on Sunday night.

Although no official statement from TCN as per the grid collapse yet, it was gathered that its restoration reached an advanced stage on Monday, as power generation rose to 2,744.6MW around 6am on Monday.

Nigeria's power grid had collapsed twice in March and twice again in April this year. Power generation on the system had continued to fluctuate due to various concerns such as gas constraints, water management challenges, gas pipeline vandalism, among others.

Following the instability in Nigeria's power supply, experts and consumer groups in the sector urged politicians to desist from generating political megawatts as they woo voters ahead of the 2023 general elections.

Kunle Olubiyo, an industry expert, who doubles as President, Nigeria Consumer Protection Network, says "Stop generating political megawatts. Stop generating electric power on the pages of newspapers and social media."

He added, "I will increase power generation from 5,000MW to 30,000MW. How do you intend to do that? Please let us know. Nigeria presently has grid sourced power generation capacity of 7,500MW, but only an



Aliyu

average of 3,600MW gets to the end-users.

"We also have 14,500MW installed generation capacity that our national energy quantum could be ramped up. There is available power on the grid that is usually rejected by the 11 electricity distribution companies and TCN."

"Yet the nation have been permanently configured into a vicious circle of distribution of darkness and perpetual energy crises due to gas constraints, market settlement crises, tariff and market shortfall, near-zero regulatory ecosystem, grid infrastructural limitations, technical deficits and broadly

ICRC: Nigeria begin production of uniforms for military, paramilitary

THE Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) has revealed that Nigeria will begin production of uniforms for its military and paramilitary personnel from January 2023.

ICRC said the production project was a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) between the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON) and Sur Corporate Wear to create the Sur Corporate Wear Nigeria Ltd.

The D I C O N / S u r collaboration which will span a concession period of 20 years will be responsible for producing uniforms for the army, navy, air force, police, civil defence and other military and paramilitary organisations, ICRC explained in a statement.

The commission's acting Director General, Michael Ohiani, had charged all stakeholders in the project to resolve all issues that were hindering the completion of the factory and report back to the commission in one week.

At the rescheduled meeting chaired by Dr Jobson Ewalefoh, Director of the Contract Compliance Department (CCD) in the ICRC, he urged all stakeholders to ensure that the project was completed within the stipulated timeframe.

speaking - grid constraints."

Olubiyo said why was it that since December 2021, the power supply situation in Nigeria had gone beyond comprehension and most embarrassingly unpleasant.

He further urged the presidential candidates of the frontline political parties to speak straight to the fundamental issues "and tell Nigerians how they will address the root causes of energy crises in Nigeria."

"And not by making bogus promises and claims as per the electricity sector. We need to be informed in specific terms how they intend to address the challenges bedeviling the power sector."

The director said that the project was very important to the nation as it would curb capital flight, create over 920 jobs and would also be a thing of pride for the nation to produce its own uniforms.

He added that as it progressed, the DICON/Sur venture was expected to begin to source all its raw materials from within Nigeria.

He said, "The fact that we produce our military and paramilitary uniforms locally is a pride to all of us. It is a pride that we all must uphold. "Sudan is producing their own military kits, and I know DICON can do it if they have the right support."

He assured all stakeholders

NIBSS mobile transactions hit N4.86tn in four months

THE Nigeria Interbank Settlement System data has revealed that Nigerians' use of mobile channels for payment transactions has risen by 3,454.46 per cent from N136.85bn within the first four months of 2019 to N4.86tn in the corresponding period of 2022.

This growth follows a 13.98 per cent increase in the number of telecommunication subscribers in the nation from 176.62 million in April 2019 to 201.31 million in the corresponding month of

2022. Data from the mobile inter-scheme portal of the NIBSS shows a significant increase in the value of mobile transactions started during the pandemic, which is consistent with its, 'Instant Payments - 2020 Annual Statistics' report.

The report revealed that the COVID-19 pandemic had changed the e-payments landscape and accelerated the adoption of instant payments.

It had added that mobile

Fish imports drain Nigeria's foreign reserves - FG

THE Federal Government has lamented on the increase of fish importation in the country. Its says Nigeria imports about 2.4 million metric tonnes of frozen fish annually and this is taking a toll on the country's foreign exchange reserves.

Speaking to journalists on the sidelines of the Internal Coordination Meeting of Implementation of Fisheries Governance Project Phase Two in Abuja, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mohammed Mahmood, says Nigeria's annual fish demand was 3.6 million metric tonnes, but only 1.2MMT was produced domestically.

Mahmood, who was represented by the Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ime Umoh, said, "Nigeria is a very large country and we need

that the ICRC, as part of its regulatory functions, would liaise with all the relevant government agencies to fast-track the ongoing process of securing approval for off takers when production began in January.

He hinted that going forward the ICRC, through its Contract Compliance Department (CCD), would make the DICON/Sur project a priority and as such monitor its progress until it was completed.

He pledged that the ICRC would continue to intervene to make PPP projects operate smoothly.

Speaking at an interactive meeting, the Managing

World Bank approves \$474m loan for Covid-19 vaccines

supplies and protracted negotiations, but it was now well-supplied with doses.

"This project will retroactively finance the procurement of 47 million COVID-19 vaccine doses by the GoSA (Government of South Africa)," the statement said.

Ismail Momoniat, acting director-general of the Treasury said the loan was

part of government efforts to cut debt-service costs by using cheaper funding sources in its response to the pandemic.

As of Monday, just over 50 per cent of South Africa's adult population of around 40 million people had received at least one vaccine dose.

In recent months the vaccination campaign has slowed, despite efforts to boost take up.



Mahmood

about 3.6MMT per annum but we are able to produce only 1.2 MMT through the artisanal, industrial and aquaculture.

"The deficit is being supplemented by frozen fish

Director of Sur Corporate Wear Nig Ltd, Burhan Can Karabulut, commended the management of ICRC for intervening and ensuring that the project was hitch-free.

He extended the commendation of the investors, adding that following the intervention of the ICRC and the meeting of stakeholders that ensued, the investor had agreed to release funds for the completion of the project.

In addition, he said that the project had reached 68 per cent completion so far, and that the remaining funds would be released soon to achieve completion goal.

devices drove payment in 2020, accounting for 43 per cent of total transactions in 2020, with 35 per cent of transactions carried out via USSD, and 78 per cent of total transfer transactions.

According to the NIBSS, mobile transactions increased from N136.85bn in 2019 to N623.47bn in 2020, N1.78tn in 2021, and N4.86tn in 2022.

Within the time under review, the mobile inter-scheme transaction portal showed that usage increased by 3,406.95 per cent from 4.36 million times to 152.99 million times.

importation, which is being used to bridge the gap. It is not actually that we are going to have 2.5 million metric tonnes brought into the country, but we have a situation that we supplement with frozen fish imports."

Asked to quantify the cost of importing over two million metric tonnes of fish into Nigeria, he replied, "I will not be able to quantify the cost, but I know that it is a toll on our foreign exchange.

"However, it is being regulated by the Central Bank of Nigeria because only the CBN governor issues Form-M to anybody who wants to bring frozen fish into the country. So that monetary toll in terms of foreign exchange used in importing frozen fish is to be given by the CBN."

On whether it was healthy to consume these frozen fish, the minister responded in the affirmative.

"Before it is brought into the country we have to certify where it is coming from, what is the health status, how is it being stored and others," he said.

Mahmood added, "We inspect the cold rooms and we have inspectors in Lagos, Abuja and in other locations who inspect the fish to ensure that it is brought in very good condition."

He further stated that the Federal Government was supporting the local production of fish in various ways.

"We train those in the artisanal sector, provide them with inputs and sometimes we boost our rivers with fingerlings. In terms of aquaculture, we establish fish farm estates for youths and women. We also provide them with feeds."



Need to leverage investment in real estate today

Pondering on the many challenges of land acquisition, scarcity and high cost of land itself, daily rise in the cost of building materials and resultant outrageous rents, the hope of reducing the huge housing shortage in Nigeria seems evasive. JUDE IKEJI writes .

AGAIN, the economic realities, fuelled by the sustained impact of the Covid-19 pandemic have all combined to lower the purchasing power of many Nigerians, including that of potential homeowners.

But there is respite, there is hope and one can still dream of an affordable home and actualise it. This is where Rouxey Vision Homes and Construction comes in. The Lagos-based firm of real estate consultancy with operations across the world is out to do things differently with value-added impacts.

Guided by honesty and adherence to the highest standards and ethics in service delivery, it renders quality and value-added services ranging from estate/property developer, agency, property marketing, valuation, feasibility, and viability appraisal, advisory, title search and verification, project, property and facility management.

Since opening to the public 12 years ago, it has maintained its objective of creating unique, luxurious, and affordable homes for everyone.

Yet, our team, from the founder/managing director, are young people with the passion and enthusiasm to achieve using our combined wealth of experience in the industry.

But what goes for us is our team's ability to actively leverage the intimate working knowledge of the operations of real estate assets to judiciously deploy capital and ensure an above-average return to the business and to our partners, the long-term satisfaction of our clients and contribute to the growth of the nation.

Moreover, the many completed projects and ongoing ones speak volumes of the firm's commitment to closing the housing deficit gap with affordable housing.

Top among the success stories are the Amanda's Garden Estate in Ibeju Lekki along with the major development (Abijo Heights) situated at Abijo GRA Lagos, a fast-rising suburb, sold-out Diamond Estate By Novare Mall in Lekki Phase 1, Osapa London project in Lekki, and the ongoing Choix Garden Estate, Abijo GRA.

While the real estate company creates unique and luxurious homes, it also caters to all interests by offering affordable homes options alongside the luxurious one for its growing clientele base.

For doubters, real estate is a sure investment with direct



benefits to home-owners and investors, and we at Rouxey Vision Homes and Construction guarantee that secured investment.

Of course, by investing in real estate, you have financial security as real estate is a sure source for passive income, value appreciates over time, and you can use your asset for bank collateral.

However, as secured as real estate investment is, potential home-owners are being defrauded by some unscrupulous people, hence engaging professionals should matter most for potential real estate owners.

Considering the risks, and most importantly, for potential home-owners in Lagos, the firm is solving the many challenges they face; from hassles in verifying the ownership and authenticity of land, to procuring original documents, double purchase of land, harassment from 'omonile,' area touts, certificate of occupancy, among others.

As a certified real estate practitioner courtesy of its membership of the Lagos State Real Estate Transaction Department (LASRETRAD), Rouxey is enabled by law to fight fraud, secure lands, documents and safeguard the investments of

home-owners in its fast-growing clientele base.

Again, Rouxey Vision Homes and Construction guarantees harnessing the true benefits of real estate investment, because it is a confirmed, tested and trusted partner to work with in actualising one's dream home.

Moreover, the team of highly trained professionals is working round the clock to make the firm a reference point in Nigeria's burgeoning luxury real estate market.

Being duly registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) under the Companies and Allied Matters Act of Nigeria (CAMA), Rouxey Vision Homes is a member of professional real estate associations such as Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers (NIESV), Estate Surveyors and Valuers Registration Board of Nigeria (ESVARBON), among others, is an assurance of quality and professionalism.

I think there is no gainsaying on the benefits of real estate investment because it is one very sure and sustainable investment, which has enabled many to build businesses or bounce back when they had financial challenges.

Moreover, instead of saving money in the bank and allowing



Fashola

inflation to take a huge toll on its value, real estate appreciates every time and makes the home-owner proud and self-confident.

From industries, government bodies, parastatals, and individuals at home and overseas, all the clients that took bold steps to invest in real

estate under the professional guidance of Rouxey are not regretting it because there is no risk in real estate. Even if you are left with the land, it will appreciate overtime.

Ikeji, a real estate specialist, writes from Lagos.

Source: Business Day.

Politics

Democracy has brought sustainable development

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

GOVERNOR Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya of Gombe State has praised Nigeria's democratic experience in the last few years saying, 'it has ushered in sustainable development to the state'.

The Governor stated the above in a goodwill message to mark this year's Democracy Day celebration. He added that it has improved over the years and has come to stay in Nigeria.

He enjoined the people of Gombe State to continue to play their role in deepening democracy by actively participating in the electoral process.

He noted with delight the successful conduct of party congresses and primaries, calling on the people to exhibit same maturity as the 2023 electioneering process begins soon.

Inuwa also urged the citizenry to take advantage of the opportunity of the continuous voters' registration, especially those who just attained voting age or those that had not registered, to obtain their PVCs in order to be eligible to exercise their rights and contribute to nation building.

According to him, the 23 years of uninterrupted democratic governance in Nigeria has ushered in sustainable development in Gombe State, which has helped in improving the lives of the people.

He paid glowing tributes to both the past and present leaders of the state, noting that their efforts ensured that Gombe State remains one indivisible entity.

His words, "For us in Gombe State, there is no denying the fact that democracy has ushered in a period of sustainable development for our dear state. Three successive civilian administrations have come and gone, paving the way for our own administration".

"Let me use this opportunity to pay tribute to our past and present leaders, who have contributed in deepening our democratic experience and strengthening our political culture.

"I therefore call on us to rededicate ourselves to nation building, remain united and frontally confront our problems with total commitment and prayers. We must always remember that the task of nations, building is a collective responsibility", he stressed.

The Governor also reassured the people of his administration's commitment to continually prioritise their well-being through the provision of socio-economic infrastructure, ensuring peace and security, law and justice as well as providing equal opportunities for all.

"To this end", he said, "we shall continue to engage all stakeholders in order to give our people a sense of belonging. We will also remain



-Inuwa

Inuwa

focused to ensure the full actualization of our vision for the creation of Gombe State, which is to build a prosperous, peaceful and all-inclusive state for all its people.

"Our objective is to build a broad developmental consensus for our dear state, one that is built on a foundation of shared ownership and collective responsibility.

"In this regard, we are meticulously implementing our novel 10-year Development Plan as a road

map for the transformation of the state that aligns with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as set by the United Nations.

"Gombe is now the best state in the ease of doing business in Nigeria and has been adjudged the safest and most peaceful state.

"It is now clear that the Jewel in the Savannah is now set on the path of a new dawn and the impact of our transformational leadership is gaining traction within three years of our stewardship", Governor Inuwa stated.

Senatorial aspirant celebrates Tinubu as APC presidential flagbearer

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE APC Kogi Central Senatorial aspirant, Barr. Ramatu Tassalla Atta has hailed the emergence of the former Lagos State Governor, Sen. Bola Ahmed Tinubu as the presidential flagbearer of the All Progressives Congress for the 2023 presidential election.

In a congratulatory message, she personally signed and made available to journalists over the weekend, Barr. Ramatu described Sen. Bola Ahmed Tinubu's victory as commendable, timely and an expression of the collective will of APC in Nigeria.

Ramatu said the Jagaba of Borgu's victory at the primary election was a reward for his many years of unrivalled dedication, labour, selfless commitment and personal sacrifice for the party which made the party succeed in previous elections.

Ramatu expressed hope that Nigeria will be better under Sen. Bola Ahmed Tinubu if given the needed support by all



Adamu

stakeholders, calling on him to be magnanimous in victory and charged other contestants to team up with him in making the 2023 election rancor free, a team effort and a one way win for the party.

The legal icon is hopeful that the emergence of the former Lagos State Governor will further stabilize the APC, project it towards effectively winning future elections, better the socio-economic fortunes of Nigeria and Nigerians as well, create a formidable leadership pathway for

THE Kogi West Senatorial flag bearer of ACCORD (A) in the 2023 general elections, Bashorun MD ESEYIN, FPOP, has condoled the entire people of Kupa land in Lokoja, over the death of their traditional ruler, Alhaji Mohammadu Kabir Isah.

In his condolence message made available to journalists on Monday in Lokoja, MD ESEYIN mourned with the people of Kupa over the loss of the royal father, describing him as "the well-respected traditional ruler".

Senatorial hopeful condoles Kupa people over monarch's death

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

He said that the monarch would be remembered for his lifelong dedication to the development of his people, providing leadership with dignity, love and respect when it mattered most.

Eseyin expressed the trusts that the late royal father's family, friends and associates would continue to honour the departed

patriarch's commitment to peaceful settlement of disputes and promoting harmony among different ethnic groups in his domain.

He prayed for the peaceful repose of the soul of the departed and comfort for those who mourn.

The late Alhaji Mohammadu Kabir Isah was the traditional ruler of Kupa land in Lokoja Local Government Area of Kogi State.

Senatorial aspirant eulogies Ebira monarch at anniversary

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

Barr Ramatu Tassalla, an APC Senatorial aspirant for the Kogi Central Senatorial district has extolled the Ohinoyi of Ebiraland, Alh Ado Ibrahim for his outstanding feat as he marks his 25 anniversary on the throne.

Ramatu recalled her childhood days growing up with the loving words of a d v i c e a n d

encouragement from her uncle, the Ohinoyi which had been a compass in her life.

Ramatu in congratulatory message, described the traditional ruler as a symbol of peace and unity in the state whose reign has recorded peace, charitable development, growth and courage amongst the people.

According to Barr Ramatu, the monarch is a quintessential father, who stands tall among his equals considering his track record in business.

Barr. Ramatu noted that Alhaji Ado Ibrahim has demonstrated his leadership qualities in the last 25 years through the enhancement of peace, unity and development

among the various ethnic nationalities in the state, especially when he held sway in acting capacity as the chairman of the state traditional council.

While wishing the royal father a peaceful reign on the throne, Ramatu prayed that the Almighty Allah will continue to protect him, grant him sound and healthy long life and knowledge and wisdom, to continue to walk in the path of destiny and lead the Ebira people right.

Ramatu said she has no doubt that the peace being enjoyed in Ebira land today was the fact that the monarch was able to bring his wealth of experience into kingship which had facilitated accelerated development in his domain.

Maje and I are not at war - Gagdi

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

FORMER Deputy Speaker of the Plateau State House of Assembly and Member representing Pankshin/Kanke/Kanam Federal Constituency, Rt. Hon. Yusuf Adamu Gagdi, has debunked speculations making the rounds that he has been at loggerhead with Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Idris Maje Wase.

This was contained in a press statement signed by Pharm Dagung Haruna Mizim, the Senior Legislative Aide to Rt. Hon. Yusuf Adamu Gagdi in the Green Chamber of National Assembly, Abuja and made available to THE NIGERIA STANDARD in Jos, the Plateau State capital yesterday.

The statement stated that, "the attention of Rt Hon Yusuf Adamu Gagdi has been drawn to a trending new media report on an alleged 'beef' between the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt Hon Idris Maje, and himself on different platforms.

"The invention of this report is meant to cause disaffection between them, having failed in their attempts to dissuade Rt Hon Gagdi during the recent campaign for re-

election in the primaries in May 2022 in Pankshin.

Rather, if anything is going well for both of them, it is their resolute concern to unite their supporters and people to win their respective election come 2023 which is in two separate constituencies of PKK and Wase respectively.

According to Mizim, "While it is a known fact, that both representatives and the people of Pankshin/Kanke/Kanam and Wase have been on the best of terms, we are indeed taken aback by the evil machinations of some warped minds who are interested only in their belly and not what can be done to the people of the constituencies, state, and Nigeria".

He, added that they were constrained to issue this statement and to further reinforce their determination to give the best to their constituencies, state, and Nigeria, today and always.

The Senior Legislative Aide warned those trouble-making rumor-mongers and their cohorts that it was pointless dissipating their energies by causing dissatisfaction among these wonderful representatives who have already carved a niche in their legislative business and agenda.

Politics

As APC presidential flagbearer unveils agenda

Presidential flag bearer and national leader of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Bola Tinubu, has shared his manifesto for the transformation of Nigeria if elected president of the country.

THE APC presidential flag bearer, according to a press statement signed by Bayo Onanuga, Director of Media and Communication, said his team will lead Nigeria to a new era of economic prosperity, peace, security and political stability.

Tinubu, a former Governor of Lagos State between 1999-2007, National Leader and now presidential flag bearer of the All Progressives Congress (APC) presented his vision within five thematic areas.

He promised to improve security by decentralising the policing of the country and creating hundreds, of thousands of new jobs simultaneously as well as promised to transform Nigeria into an enviable country and one where there will be justice, peace and prosperity for all, with a "robust economy".

Titled, 'My Vision for Nigeria', Tinubu promised in the document, "a nation transformed into greatness, the pride of Africa, a role model for all black people worldwide, and respected among all other countries.

"A vibrant and thriving democracy and a prosperous nation with a fast-growing industrial base, capable of producing the most basic needs of the people and exporting to other countries of the world. A country with a robust economy, where prosperity is broadly shared by all irrespective of class, region, and religion.

"A nation where its people enjoy all the basic needs, including a safe and secure environment, abundant food, affordable shelter, health care, and quality primary education for all, and a nation founded on justice, peace, and prosperity for all.

On the economy, Tinubu promised to build an economy that will make the nation's Gross Development Product (GDP) grow quicker annually for the next four years while also providing jobs for millions of youths in the country.

He also promised to launch a new National Industrial Policy focused on special intervention to reinvestigate specific strategic industries.

"I will focus on stimulating jobs, which will be my top priority as President. I will get Nigeria to work by launching a major public works programme, a significant and heavy investment in infrastructure, and value-adding manufacturing and agriculture.

"My administration will build an efficient, fast-growing, and well-diversified emerging economy with a real GDP growth averaging 12% annually for the next four years, translating into millions of new jobs during this period," he said.

Tinubu also promised to create six new Regional Economic Development Agencies which will establish sub-regional industrial hubs to exploit each zone's competitive advantage and optimise the potential for industrial growth.

The presidential flagbearer also promised to formulate a new National Policy on Agriculture to boost food production.

He promised to promote the establishment of a new commodity exchange board, while also strengthening the one in Lagos in order to guarantee minimum pricing for agricultural products such as cotton, cocoa, rice, soya beans, corn, palm kernel, and groundnuts.



President Buhari, flanked by APC Chairman Abdulahi Adamu declaring Bola Tinubu as APC flagbearer

On infrastructure, Tinubu promised to "Build A New Nigeria (BANN)" by developing a National Infrastructure plan, which will cover strategic roads, bridges, rail, water, power, seaports, and airports spanning the length and breadth of the country.

He said his administration will combine government funding, borrowing, Public Private Partnership, private sector financing and concession to initiate a medium and long-term financial model for the BANN initiative.

Tinubu further stated that his administration will target an electricity distribution goal of 15,000 megawatts across the country and ensure a sustainable 24/7 supply.

"On electricity, I will embark on a renewed action-oriented focus and take immediate and urgent action on resolving existing challenges of power generation plants, gas purchasing, pricing, transmission, and distribution. My administration's critical goal is to have 15,000 megawatts distributable to all categories of consumers nationwide to ensure 24/7 sustainable supply within the next four years," he added.

On the oil and gas sector, Tinubu said there will be no need for a subsidy because the market will be open and transparent.

Supply will come from local refineries, and the forces of

demand and supply will determine the price of petroleum products.

My administration will establish a National Strategic Reserve for Petroleum Products to stabilize supply during unexpected shortages or surplus periods. This will eliminate any form of product shortages and prevent wild swings in prices.

Tinubu also spoke about his administration's promise in the area of education, promising to increase the spending on education to 25 per cent of the nation's budget.

He promised to continue the free school feeding programme of the

APC, feeding "millions of primary school children across the country".

On tertiary education, Tinubu said his administration will eradicate strikes by tertiary institution workers by encouraging the tertiary institutions to source for funds through grants and corporate sponsorships, with all the institutions granted financial autonomy.

Just like education, Tinubu also promised to increase the funding for health care in the annual budget to 10 percent. According to him, the National Health Insurance Scheme will be re-launched to

grant health insurance cover to most Nigerians.

Below is a summary of the agenda:

- 25% annual budget for education
- 10% annual budget for health
- Decentralisation of police
- Introduction of commodity exchange
- Total deregulation of oil market and building of national strategic reserve to sustain supply
- Stimulation of production and manufacturing for export
- Target of 15,000MW generation and distribution of electricity.

"A vibrant and thriving democracy and a prosperous nation with a fast-growing industrial base, capable of producing the most basic needs of the people and exporting to other countries of the world. A country with a robust economy, where prosperity is broadly shared by all irrespective of class, region, and religion. A nation where its people enjoy all the basic needs, including a safe and secure environment, abundant food, affordable shelter, health care, and quality primary education for all, and a nation founded on justice, peace, and prosperity for all."

IMAGES

DEMOCRACY DAY CHURCH SERVICE 2022

The 2022 Democracy Day Church Service in Plateau State took place at the EYN LCC Jos with Governor Lalong, Security Chiefs in the state and members of the Executive Council in attendance



Governor Lalong (left) being welcomed by Rev. Joseph Kwaha, Reverend in charge of EYN LCC Jos (middle) and members of the Security Council



Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (middle) Chief Judge, Justice David Mann, President, CCA, Justice Blessing Lyop Dalyop, SGS, Prof. Danladi Abok Atu, CoS, Hon. Noel Dongjur and Engr. Sunday Chong Hyat mni, HoS



Rev. Dr. David Laje, Special Adviser on Christian matters (left) flanked by Clergymen on hand to welcome the Governor



Members of the Security Council waiting for the arrival of the Governor



A cross section of members of the State Security Chiefs at the Democracy Day service



L - R: Barr. Jonathan Mawuyau, Adviser on Legal Matters, Hon. Mrs. Felicia Yakzum, Adviser, Women Affairs and Hon. Dan Philip Hirkop, Commissioner of Education (Tertiary)



A cross section of Government functionaries at the service



Pastor James Garba, Assistant Pastor EYN LCC Jos preaching sermon

Photos: DANLADI DUK

Politics

'My focus will be insecurity'

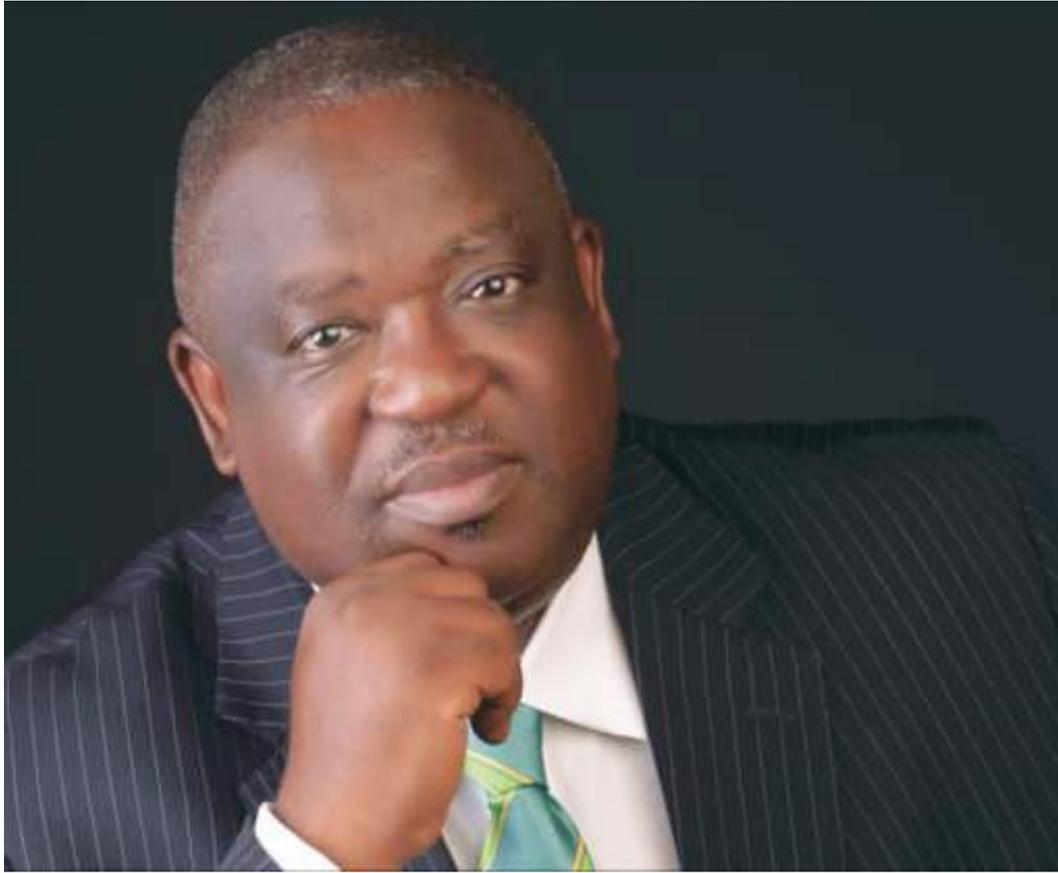
Hon. Barrister Caleb Mufwang is the former chairman Mangu Local Government Council and gubernatorial flag bearer of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Plateau State. He spoke with JIDAUNA YANUNG in Abuja on the recently concluded Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) primaries, intrigues and other national issues and the presentation of certificate of return to him: Excerpts:

YOUR Excellency, you have just been presented the certificate of return in the just concluded PDP primaries. Can you give us in detail how it has been and your take on being a candidate of the main opposition party in Plateau State?

Thank you very much for this question. First and foremost, I and other candidates of the People Democratic Party (PDP) were presented with the certificate of return as the duly elected candidates for the Peoples Democratic Party for the 2023 Gubernatorial elections. This is very significant. Significant in the sense that the National Executive Committee of the party has ratified the processes that led to my emergence as the candidate of the PDP and this means that there is no controversy around my candidature. This means that we have been given a clean bill of health that the process was fair, transparent and therefore we can prepare for the general elections in February. So it is a very significant step for our party. The interesting thing is that out of the 18 aspirants that contested this election with me which I was privileged to emerge as the winner or the candidate they have been co-operator. Infact, I have received tremendous cooperation from them and solidarity from my co-contestants. They exhibited true spirit of sportsmanship and for me that is very important. This means that for us in PDP there is no victor no vanquish, we are all winners because the party has become stronger and we are going to march into the general elections as a united party by the grace of God.

Sir, having said this, do you think PDP is the party to beat on the Plateau?

Very interesting question. One of the things that happened in the previous elections which the PDP lost was that we went into the elections as a broken house. We went into the elections as a divided house and like the Bible says a house divided against it cannot stand. But I would like to assure you that with this



Mufwang

development, the PDP that led to my emergence will by the grace of God, go into elections as a united party. We are also doing everything possible to make sure that all grievances are resolved and I am pretty sure that very soon everybody will be singing the same tone in the PDP. We want to put the past behind us and press toward. The goal that is set before us in 2023. I am excited that everywhere we have gone, Plateau people are excited, happy about what happened in PDP and we are confident that this excitement will be translated into votes when the election comes in 2023.

Would you describe Plateau State since 1999 and your assesment of the various leaders it has produced?

Since 1999 it has been a mix package. We have had the good, the bad and the ugly. I

will not name names or be specific but I want to think in this direction that Plateau could have been better than this. And that is why some of us are seeking to receive the mandate of the people to make the state great again, to make it better than it is now and we are trusting God that we will work for the peace and prosperity of the state.

Sir, the major problem of Plateau is the security challenge in the state. How would you tackle this if given the mandate?

First, the issue of insecurity as it pertains to leadership is commitment and in this case, I want to assure the people of Plateau State that I am committed to seeking every means possible to ensure that the issue of insecurity is dealt with. I will not sleep if a community is attacked in the state and I will do everything possible within my power to harness all the security resources to be able to make

them more vibrant so as to ensure that our people sleep with their eyes closed.

To be specific, we are planning to take some certain steps and one of its revitalization of the Operation Rainbow which was started by the previous administration of the PDP. We are going to make sure that they return actively and we are going to make sure that they perform well. They will be well equipped and well staffed.

We are also going to make sure by the grace of God that we pursue the issue of state police. We believe in it and we think it is time Nigeria takes that decision. But more than that, there are other internal specific measures that we can take which are not for public consumption now.

As we approach the 2023 election year, what are the chances of your party at both the national and state level?

Yes, very excellent, very very excellent at the national level. You can see that we had a free and rancour free convention. Unfortunately, reverse is the case with our main opponent. They are finding it difficult to find a candidate. Well it is normal, after every election you don't expect everybody to be happy. But I want to tell you that PDP is a big family and every disagreement that arises at the primaries is looked at by our leaders and it will be resolved amicably very soon. So our chances still remain bright. Nigerians are tired that they want true change and at the various state levels. I can tell you that PDP will bounce back. We are confident that at the end of the 2023 general elections, PDP

will not only return to government at the federal level but we will get a minimum of 25 states.

Your presidential candidate Alhaji Atiku Abubakar has series of allegations on him on the roles he played in the privatisation process, when he was a vice president among others. How do you think Nigerians will trust him by giving him their mandate in 2023 amidst these allegations?

Yes, once you are in leadership, it is very easy to have those kinds of things, rumors here and there. But again to the best of my knowledge, no one has come out to substantiate these rumours. No one has come out with facts about these rumours that he personally benefitted from the privatisation programme which he headed. You also note that the privatisation was not a personal decision, there were many processes involved. So I wonder how he will do it, I am sure he alone cannot take a decision to sell or buy any of these things and also believe that institutions like the National Assembly could have been able to expose those issues and they would have brought them to the public domain. But let me assure you that allegations will always come, but I want to believe that our candidate of the PDP is not prefect as a human being. I want to assure you that he is a man for Nigeria at the moment.

Your party had a hitchfree convention which produced Atiku Abubakar as a presidential candidate but reverse is the case in the ruling party. What advise would you give them or what is your take on this and what does this potend for our democracy?

For the PDP you can see clearly that it was a democratic exercise. In situations like this, there are winners and losers and it is God that gives power and he gives it to anybody he chooses. So I advise that the ruling APC should emulate.

If given the mandate to govern Plateau State, which area will you focus on?

Like I said earlier, my focus will be security. This is very important. You cannot do anything without security. You cannot even develop the economy without security, and you cannot do anything at all, without security you cannot talk about infrastructure. We are going to focus on finding channels of prosperity for the people and the state. We will focus on where prosperity will flourish like agriculture, tourism, mining, among others in a clearly different way from what has been done in the past. We are confident we can bring genuine change on the Plateau.

"Yes, once you are in leadership, it is very easy to have those kinds of things, rumors here and there. But again to the best of my knowledge, no one has come out to substantiate these rumours. No one has come out with facts about these rumours that he personally benefited from the privatisation program which he headed. You also note that the privatisation was not a personal decision. There were many processes involved. So I wonder how he will do it. I am sure he alone cannot take a decision to sell or buy any of these things and also believe that institutions like the National Assembly could have been able to expose those issues and they would have brought them to the public domain. But let me assure you that allegations will always come. I want to believe that our candidate of the PDP is not prefect as a human being. I want to assure you that he is a man for Nigeria at the moment."

NEWS

'One million people affected by drug abuse'

By JIDAUNA DARING

OVER one million people living within Jos and its environs are said to have been affected in one way or another due to addiction/substance abuse. President/CEO Guest House Kwata, Very Rev Fr. Jack Yali disclosed this during the celebration of a successful recovery of a drug addict at guest house Kwata, Centre for Addiction Treatment, Mental Health and re-occurring disorders, held at Kwata in Jos South LGA of Plateau State recently.

Rev Fr. Yali while speaking on the success stories of the centre said that the centre has rehabilitated over 200 victims of addiction/substance abuse. He pointed out that the centre's treatment are 12 steps philosophy, adding that the centre is in the business of picking up alcoholic, drug addict, mental health illnesses victims. He stressed that after rehabilitated the victims, the centre also sends them back to the community.

Rev Fr. Yali remarked that there are people who are still suffering from different addictions that need rehabilitation so as to enable them go out and help themselves as well as others. According to him, Guest House Kwata is the first treatment centre in Nigeria that is using the 12 steps model of treatment. Yali added that it is only their centre that use Minnesota model with CBT that is based on change.

He explained that the centre does a lot of counseling that



Lar

are geared towards making the recovered victims get something better to do in the society.

He added, the centre as part of its success stories has opened a barbing salon shop for one of its client, Pius Ejeka so as to enable him continue catching fish for himself rather than giving him the fish to eat.

Rev Fr. Yali also said that the centre is 5 years since its establishment, saying that what the centre is doing is basically representing samaritan work. He called on other spirited individuals to key into the programmes that would further transform the lives of the people in the society.

In her remarks, Vice President, Operation, Guest House Kwata, Christy P. Lekwot expressed optimism

with the centre, said that based on her experience at the centre, she observed that mothers played a crucial role in the centralization in development of their children or humanity in the society.

Lekwot encouraged women to always pay attention to their children, especially from 2 to 7 years which remains the most crucial age of their human development. She advised parents to always ensure close monitoring of their children so that they would not fall victims of any addiction in life.

One of the recovered victims of drug addiction from the centre, Pius Ejeka expressed happiness and thanked the centre for bringing him out from the dark zone to bright zone. He appreciated the centre for also making him to become productive, particularly for opening a new barbing salon for him.

colleagues and friends but there was nothing we could do. After we heard the arrival of security men, we came out of the bush and identified ourselves," TNS quoted Ja'o as saying.

Another passenger, Jabiru Shehu, said that over 50 persons were abducted.

"We met four empty vehicles with some belongings including a phone and some travelling bags. We were there when some policemen from Tureta of Sokoto State arrived at the scene.

"From what I heard, they were more than 50 people with the bandits because we were there also when some of the travellers who ran into the bush returned to the main road."

THE NIGERIA STANDARD could not confirm the development from either Sokoto or Zamfara state commands of the Nigeria Police.

Spokespersons DSP Abubakar Sanusi and SPM Mohammed, respectively

Two first class traditional rulers in the troubled Bassa Local Government Area of Kogi State, have been clamped into detention for their inability to stop the incessant killings and wanton destruction of properties in their domains. The chiefs who are already cooling their heels behind bars are Ohiegba of Mozum, HRH Khalid Bukar Ali and the Aguma of Bassa Kingdom, HRH William Keke.

Governor Yahaya Bello who gave order for their arrest, had also placed the Divisional Security Officer DSO of the Local Government Area and some Government appointees under security watch for their roles in the violence that has claimed many lives and properties. The Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Galaticus Onogwu in a press statement in Lokoja over the weekend, confirmed the arrest and said the recent resurgence occurred as a

Monarchs under detention for inability to stop killings

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

result of an alleged murder of a Bassa Komu palm wine tapper.

It was revealed that crisis broke out on Monday May 30, 2022 following the killing of a Bassa Kwomu palm wine tapper, Mr. David Daku at Uga Cheure farm near Oguma.

According to the locals, the killing of Mr. Daku enraged the Bassa/Kwomus who alleged that the Igburra Mozum people would have been behind his death.

However, while security agents were still investigating the matter, another Bassa/Komu man was said to have been killed same day at Koromu near Udogbo. On Thursday June 2, 2022, two Bassa Kwomus were also said to have been killed at Sheria farm and Koromu Village.

According to the villagers, these deaths, sparked hostilities in Udogbo and Mozum towns, in which many have been killed and properties worth millions destroyed.

Meanwhile, the spate of crisis angered Governor Yahaya Bello who has since 2018 vowed to deal ruthlessly with any traditional ruler in Bassa whose community start up any crisis and allegedly ordered for their arrest. The renewed crisis which stemmed out of the killing of a Bassa Kwomu palm wine tapper did not go down well with the state government which has directed its security apparatus to keep the two traditional rulers under house arrest.

However, efforts to release the two traditional rulers proved abortive as the state government is bent on arresting all those fingered in the crisis.

Philanthropist extol Ebir monarch, Ohinoyi on anniversary

From VICTOR GAI, Jalingo

A philanthropist and president of Enemona Humanitarian Foundation, Ambassador Gabriel Onoja, has described the 25 years reign of the incumbent Ohinoyi of Ebir land, Dr. Ado Ibrahim as fruitful and eventful.

The commendation was contained in a message of felicitation with His Royal Majesty, Dr Ado Ibrahim as he marked his 25th anniversary of

ascension to the throne of his forefathers.

The statement signed by the President of the foundation, Ambassador Gabriel Onoja was made available to Journalists in Lokoja at the weekend. Onoja, a philanthropist per excellence, said the reign of the paramount ruler has brought enormous development, sustainable peace, and rising honour for the kingdom and Kogi State as a whole.

He noted that the Ohinoyi of Ebir land has emerged as one of the most respected monarch, in Kogi State and Nigeria, by virtue of his qualities of

justice, truthfulness, courage and love for the poor shown over the years on the throne. Gabriel said it is a fact that Ebir land has enjoyed meaningful development as the Ohinoyi over the years led political and other leaders in ensuring laudable socio-economic development of the land. While wishing His Royal Majesty a spirit filled, enterprising and peaceful reign on the throne, the foundation hopes that Ohinoyi will continue with his acts of generosity, love and care for the less privileged.

Bandits raid Sokoto-Gusau road

Bandits recently kidnapped 50 persons along Sokoto-Gusau road.

The victims were reportedly returning from a wedding in Tambuwal, Sokoto State, when the gunmen attacked them in two coaster buses and two other private vehicles, **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** has gathered.

FROM ANENE AIKE, SOKOTO

Lawal Ja'o, a passenger who escaped from the assailants' raid, said the attack occurred around Dogon Hili in Zamfara State.

"We started hearing the sounds of gunshots before the first vehicle was hit.

"We kept hearing the voices and screams of our



Tambuwal

said they were yet to get the information.

NUPRAW chair, treasurer get bail

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE case between Acting Chairperson of the Nigeria Union of Public Service Reportorial, Secretarial, Data Processors and Allied Workers (NUPRAW) Plateau State Chapter, Comrade Nelly James Amama, and State Command of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), is set for July 19, 2022 after being bailed last month.

The acting chairperson who was detained alongside her Treasurer Hajiyah Hadiza for more than a week without bail generated a stiff argument at both the national and state level with NLC leadership threatening to shutdown the state for denying the legitimate state union leaders bail and detaining them wrongly.

It was gathered that the complainant, Janet Ijah, who was expelled from the union still paraded herself as the Plateau State Chairperson of NUPRAW

after Nelly Amama has been appointed by National Executives as Acting State Chairperson with Hajiyah Hadiza as Acting Treasurer.

According to the report, after all the necessary changes of signatories of the union's account in UBA Bank, the dismissed Ijah, refused to change the alert number of the account and was monitoring any transaction carried out by the new leadership. On one fateful day, Amama and Adiza went and withdrew money for May Day Celebration only for the expelled Chairperson to report them to the Police accusing them of forgery.

Presiding over the case, Justice BM Basi, after considering the bail application of Counsel to the Defendant, Barr. JK Amama, filed May 1, 2022 said, Criminal Justice Law permits application for bail according to Section 1/2 of Penal code and could not be withheld as attempt to punishment, because the case was not a

capital offense.

The judge granted the two defendants bail with bail conditions of over Two Hundred Thousand Naira (#200,000) to be paid as one of the conditions with a shortee who must be a civil servant and must also be resident in Jos, the Plateau State capital. The adjourned date for hearing would be July 19, 2022.

The NUPRAW President, said, she was proud of the two because they have proven that they were truly the martyrs of truth and the rule of law saying, "if you followed the path of truth that respect rules of law, you will definitely see this kind of solidarity from members".

On his part, the Plateau State NLC Vice Chairman, Comrade Sunny Folarin, commended the forum and its structure for the show of solidarity, stressing that the journey of mistrust and mis-joy has started in Plateau State with this act in place and called on them to be honest in all they do.

News

Lalong swears in 4 new Judges, Khadi

Stories by
PALANG KASMI

PLATEAU State Governor has sworn in 4 new Judges of the State High Court and a Khadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal, with a call on them to shun corrupt practices.

Performing the swearing in ceremony at the New Government House, Little Rayfield Jos, on Monday June 13, 2022, the Governor said their appointments are based on merit and recognition of their excellent service to the state and Nigeria over the years.

He said going by their antecedents, he had no doubt that they will take the Judiciary to higher levels and enhance the cause of democracy, good governance and the rule of law.

Said Lalong "Since your calling as Judicial Officers gives you the rare privilege of making decisions that affect the lives of the people and sometimes bordering on life and death situations". "you must never take this assignment lightly

or allow frivolous considerations to influence you. Consider this duty as a public trust given to you by God to represent him in the affairs of men. Therefore, you should endeavor to stay true to your Oath of Office and discharge your duties with the fear of God and without fear, favour, affection or ill-will".

"Failure to do so will not only erode your integrity, but also put the entire society on the path of chaos and anarchy. When people cannot get justice, they may be forced to resort to self-help and other unconventional means to resolve issues. This will not augur well for the well-being of the society".

Governor Lalong used the occasion to reassure the Judiciary of his personal support and that of the Executive Arm of Government as well as the Legislature towards making sure that they operate under

a conducive environment. He assured that the new High Court Headquarters complex which is at the furnishing stage will soon be commissioned as well as the Multi-Door Courthouse which has also been completed to give a befitting accommodation to meet the needs of the judiciary.

The Governor also advised them to be wary of politicians that will like to induce them so as to get undue advantage ahead of the 2023 general elections. He added "At times like this, there is high tendency for enormous pressure to be mounted on Judges by politicians who want to get undeserved advantage at all costs. I know you have the capacity to resist attempts to corrupt, confuse, intimidate or blackmail you towards participating in unethical conducts".

The Judges sworn in are Hon. Justice Ladi Agyer Madaki, Hon. Justice Elizabeth Angai, Hon. Justice Longden Jacob Danladi, Hon. Justice Dasplang Samchi and Khadi Yahaya Mohammed Kanam of the Sharia Court of Appeal.

We have done our best on peace and unity -Lalong

"In the past seven years of our administration, we have done our best to unite the citizens of Plateau State", Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State has said on Democracy Day 2022.

"We have also provided platforms for dialogue, engagement and genuine reconciliation" said the Governor while speaking as special guest during the state Democracy Day Inter-denominational Church service held at the Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a' Nigeria (EYN) church, Jos.

Lalong told the Congregation that his administration has put efforts to reduce the crisis that had engulfed his state and results have shown that substantial peace and confidence have largely returned.

Lalong said the 2022 Democracy Day is coming at the height of Nigeria's political dispensation that will see to the election of new crop of leaders in 2023 and despite the daunting challenges his

administration has faced, he is giving his best to Plateau citizens.

He blamed the security challenges on the actions and inactions of the past, and called for tolerance, unity, peace and progress from Plateau citizens saying it is the most paramount thing the state needs to record any meaningful development.

While commending the Church on the Plateau for its unity under the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), he called for more prayers from the church and admonished citizens to get their Permanent Voters Card to participate in the country's 2023 general elections.

The Chief Judge of Plateau State, Justice David Mann in his remarks called on the church to continue to pray for all the arms of government promising to continue to work tirelessly for the dispensation of justice for the peace and unity of the nation Plateau Commissioner of Police (CP), Bartholomew Onyeka who

spoke on behalf of security forces during the service requested for continued prayers from the Church to bring peace and unity on the Plateau, assuring that all security operatives are jointly working as a team to ensure peace and security is achieved.

He however called on citizens to synergize with security agencies to work together on security. His words, "Give us vital information whenever anything is happening so that together we address the problem".

Plateau CAN Chairman, Fr. Polycarp Lubo said the Christendom is praying for democracy to be sustained calling on Christians to be still, keep calm and listen to God despite the present security challenges bedeviling the state and country.

Earlier, Pastor James Garba Assistant Pastor, of the EYN Church LCC Jos, in a sermon with the theme "Preach the word" said God's word has played a vital role in helping people to do the will of God.

He congratulated the EYN Church for reaching 100 years of existence and the missionaries for bringing the word of God into the country.

The man of God condemned the killings of Christians in the country by religious extremists and challenged Christians to realise that they must live good positive lives according to God's will, touch lives, preach God's word to others, in order to make heaven.

The NIGERIA STANDARD reports that the church programme which took place simultaneously across the federation was among FG's designed activities for the 2022 Democracy Day celebration to honour Nigerians who paid the supreme price in the struggle for establishing a stable democracy in the country.



Polo Roundabout and fate of citizens

POLO Roundabout has acquired the notoriety of the accident central of Jos, the Plateau State capital. Hardly a week passes without a truck accident happening at the roundabout. People lose their lives not because of any fault of theirs but because they find themselves at that spot at probably the wrong moment. The recent accident that happened at the Polo Roundabout and, which destroyed part of the new University of Jos, Veterinary Hospital, recently equipped with state of the art equipment is one too many. Lots of people have lent their voices on the need for urgent measures to be taken to curb these accidents which keep occurring.

Those who live around the Polo Roundabout can attest to the scale of destruction that have happened as a result of these unfortunate events. For the accidents to keep happening is indicative that our

“**Those who live around the Polo Roundabout can attest to the scale of destruction that have happened as a result of these unfortunate events. For the accidents to keep happening is indicative that our society is not proactive enough and has failed to take measures that would mitigate the carnage that has been visited in the general area. I am aware few weeks ago that a truck ran a m o c k a n d destroyed a number of shops located in t h a t a r e a . Thankfully, no live was lost during the accident.**

“

society is not proactive enough and has failed to take measures that would mitigate the carnage that has been visited in the general area. I am aware few weeks ago that a truck ran amock and destroyed a number of shops located in that area. Thankfully, no live was lost during the accident.

But these carnages cannot be allowed to go on unabated. Those saddled with ensuring traffic management must wake up to their responsibility and find solutions to the crashes and waton loss of lives and property. They must fashion out means of making the area and other parts of the state capital safe for motorists. Thankfully the Governor of the state himself visited the accident scene and made pronouncements that are heartwarming. What is left is for the technocrats to follow and put in place ways to avert future occurrences.

In that regard, it is our hope that a law banning trucks and articulated vehicles from plying the streets of the city be made and presented to the House of Assembly to enact into a law. That way, anyone found who runs afoul of the law would be made to pay for it. For the law to be effective, however, truck parks must be created at the various entry points to the city. One at Zaria road, one at the Bauchi road and one at Mararaban Jamaa. This will not only create value chains but would make our roads and city safer.

First, it would ensure that only trucks passing through the state capital can access the city at a certain time probably at night when traffic would be light. For trucks bringing goods to the city, their termination point would be at the truck parks. From the parks smaller vehicles would convey these goods into the city. This would also mean an expansion in our informal economy as these truck drivers would be provided goods and services at the truck park. This too would stimulate

economic growth and provide employment for a lot of people.

On the other hand, it would boost the revenue base of the state as these trucks would be parked at a costs. These parks would also save some of our roads from the indiscriminate parking and their destruction by these heavy vehicles. Government's dwindling resources calls for the effective harnessing of all sources of revenue so as to depend less on what comes from the centre.

We cannot fail to c o m m e n d t h e commitment of agencies saddled with rescuing accidents victims. They have been prompt and have often done a great job. But we should not allow it to get to the point where destructions are visited on the society before we start running helter skelter to bring succour to the victims. If measures are taken to prevent the accidents, our society would be the better for it.

And for us as a society to atone for our past mistakes and allow the souls of those who lost their lives in the Polo Roundabout area, we must work assiduously to prevent future occurrences.

And like Katdapba Gobum said in his Sunday column ' The other side' , " the road will not be closed for vehicular movement. It is one of the busiest roads in the city of Jos. Businesses will continue to function, and there will be people doing a number of things around the area or its vicinity. Either way, there is still danger lurking around if nothing is done. The area is where the Polo field is domiciled. It is one sport that has brought acclaim to the state, but more important is the fact that, it publicizes the potentials of the state as a tourism destination as well as the boost the state gets in its economy. That explains more why more attention should be accorded to taking care of the road. "



Lalong

News

PLASCHEMA leads Health Insurance enrollment in Nigeria

THE Plateau State Contributory Healthcare Management Agency (PLASCHEMA) is second to none in Nigeria in terms of health insurance enrollment programme in less than three years of its official kick off.

The Director General of the agency, Dr Fabong Jemchan, disclosed this in a live programme last Saturday, during a town hall meeting and citizens engagement organised by PLASCHEMA in collaboration with Plateau Radio/Television Corporation (PRTVC), held at the TV Studio Rayfield Jos.

He said, since the establishment of this agency in 2019, over thirty-five thousand (35,000) people have so far benefited from the affordable and effective health insurance saying, "we have recruited communities pharmaceutical outlets and educated our enrolls to go to the facilities for the prescription of drugs because the era of out of stock is the thing of the past.

"Our enrollment period of thirty seconds is a good time and it is efficient for the use of android phone with minimal provision. You do not need to go to bank or come to our offices to make

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

EC payment of premium. You can generate the payment from home by dialing *347*6134# then dial fund. Even with simple phone you can also make payment and you get bank statement and then you pay.

"We have become a role model to so many states. Two months ago at the International Conference that was hosted by National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA), with two ministers present at the meeting, they asked other states to come to PLASCHEMA and learn. Remember, we started at number 17 position, but one and half years in the service, we moved to step 7 and by the current ranking, even the Ministers are telling people to learn from Plateau State. Then, you can conclude that our current position is that we are leading", he disclosed

Jemchan, however, added that some of these successes were not without challenges, but they were able to create platform for structural sustainability and financial sustainability that would create institutional memories and most importantly, community sustainability.

Earlier in his welcome

remark, the General Manager of PRTVC, Mr. Jephtha Jackden, thanked Governor Simon Bako Lalong, for establishing PLASCHEMA. He describe it as the best legacy he would leave for Plateau people because health is wealth and that, the citizens engagement was generating attitudinal change.

On his part, the Chairman of the occasion who is also a former Chief Medical Director of JUTH Jos, Prof. Ishaya Pam, congratulated President Muhammadu Buhari and Governor Simon Lalong, for bringing Health Insurance to the state. And that, in no distant time, Plateau State would record 80 to 90 percent of enrollment with Dr Jemchan in place.

Meanwhile, the state Commissioner for Information and Communication, Hon. Dan Manjang, commended the Staff of PLASCHEMA for a wonderful job they were doing and called on Plateau people to key into this Health Insurance Programme for them to benefit from this laudable scheme.

There were discussants like Professor Victor Pam, of the University of Jos and Professor Chris Yilgwan of the University of Jos who enriched the program.

THE Federal Government on Sunday said it has put in place all mechanisms to monitor and curb the outbreak of monkey pox causing anxiety around the world.

The Minister of Health, Dr Osagie Ehanire, said this at the inauguration of projects executed by Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital, Sokoto. Ehanire said the government is monitoring the outbreak and making effort to enlighten the public on the disease and how to prevent its spread.

He said the President Muhammadu Buhari-led administration was committed to improve the quality of healthcare delivery in the country. "This is a commitment to meet the highest standard found elsewhere in the world, as not everyone has the desire or means to travel abroad for treatment.

"As such, I call on doctors, nurses and care providers to bear this in mind and commit to the stated objective of excellence in service delivery to our people.

"Government has provided you the tools we today bear witness to," he said. The minister added that this administration has since inception in 2015, made a point of investing in the health sector through budgetary provision and special intervention projects.

"The Brachytherapy Centre constructed at this facility as an additional treatment centre for cancer, is one such projects

FG set to curb monkey pox

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

to be commissioned today. "In 2021, the Federal Executive Council also granted approval for the construction, procurement and installation of a linear accelerator and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine for this hospital.

"These modern medical equipment will improve diagnostics and management of cancer, neurosurgery and orthopaedics cases," he added. Ehanire disclosed that the government was in the process of providing oxygen plants across the nation, to improve management of critically ill patients requiring oxygen therapy.

He called on every Nigerian yet to be vaccinated for Covid-19 to avail themselves of the vaccination to support the 70 per cent ratio needed for immunity and healthier society.

While assuring the commitment of the government to resolve grievances of health sector, the minister urged health professionals to support the growth of health system by putting aside acrimony. He

congratulated the management of Usmanu Danfodio University Teaching Hospital for achieving so much in their tenure, while commending Sokoto State Government for their support to the hospital.

Governor Aminu Tambuwal of Sokoto State lauded the federal government for its commitment toward addressing brain-drain in the health sector of the country. Tambuwal, represented by Dr Ali Inname, the state Commissioner for Health, said the brain-drain in the health sector was making the state to lose many of its health personnel.

Earlier, the Chief Medical Director of the hospital, Dr Anas Sabir, highlighted some of the hospital's challenges, including inadequate manpower, electricity and aging facilities. Projects inaugurated by the minister included the newly established Nuclear Medicine Department, Brachytherapy Centre, Cardiothoracic Centre and upgraded Intensive Care Unit. Also inaugurated was the Multipurpose Centre, female students hostel, Female Medical Ward, Molecular Laboratory, renovated Trauma Centre, among others.

20 million Nigerians living with hepatitis

ABOUT 19 to 20 million Nigerians are living with viral hepatitis B and C without even knowing they have the disease, Danjuma Adda, President of the World Hepatitis Alliance, revealed.

According to Adda, the reason for this situation is due the slow progression of the disease and the resilient nature of the liver which keeps regenerating and replacing infected liver cells.

The Taraba born Public Health expert, in an exclusive interview with THE NIGERIA STANDARD in Jalingo, also disclosed that hepatitis B and C constitute the greatest threat of all the types. He said hepatitis B has no cure but can be managed while hepatitis C has a cure when detected early.

"But the ones that are of greatest health importance are viral hepatitis B and C because together, B and C cause the death of over 1.1 million people annually.

"Now, Nigeria has a burden

From VICTOR GAI, Jalingo

of about 8.1% based on recent studies, translating to about 19 to 20 million Nigerians living with the disease. But unfortunately, majority of people living with this disease are not even aware they have it because hepatitis is a slow progressive disease of the liver. Slow because it takes like 15 to 20 years because it keeps attacking the liver cells and the liver is the only organ in the body that regenerates and replaces itself. You might not seem to know.

The liver replaces its cells but the virus is attacking. So the interaction between the viruses and the liver would ultimately make the liver begin to degenerate, develop fibrosys, develop cirrhosis and ultimately develop liver cancer. But all of this takes time. It takes like 15, 20 to 25 years. So a lot of people don't see it because the liver is travelling over time to heal itself, so they

don't even know they have the disease. So by the time they come down with either swollen abdomen or any complications as a result of liver problem, it might be too late.

"So for hepatitis B, there is a vaccine but there is no complete cure for hepatitis B unlike the lie they tell people all around. But there is cure for hepatitis C," Adda disclosed.

He mentioned the mode of transmission to include, an infected mother to her child, unprotected sex, infected blood transfusion, contaminated needles among others. He blamed lack of awareness as the main reason for the fatality rate and said early detection of the disease is the best way to prevent death from the disease.

"An infected mother can give to her baby and that is why all pregnant mothers are supposed to be screened for hepatitis to know if they have it. And if they have it, the baby's supposed to get the vaccine or the pregnant mother is supposed to get intervention. Unprotected sexual intercourse with an infected person is another mode of transmission. Unscreened blood transfusion, contaminated needles, razor blades, what people use in plating hair and again sharing needles.

"So the virus stays in major body fluids like the semen, the vaginal fluids and then blood and blood products. So it is important for people to detect the virus early because early detection is what would help to slow the progression of the disease to liver cancer which is where it ultimately leads to.

Early detection is very

important for people to prevent it from getting to major complication but the challenge is awareness. Most of the time, it has similar symptoms with malaria and typhoid. Most people would have the headache, abdominal pain, swollen abdomen and all these things, but when it comes to swollen abdomen, it is like the liver is really getting bad. But because of this similar symptoms with other diseases, a lot of times people are misdiagnosed. And to make matters worse, majority of people are living with the disease.

'There no better alternative to democracy'

From ABBAS SHEHU GUNGURA, Bauchi

Governor Bala Mohammed Abdulkadir of Bauchi State has subscribed that the celebration of the 23rd democracy day is an indication that democracy is now firmly rooted in Nigeria and has come to stay.

He said there is no better alternative to democracy as a form of government that gives people the right to choose who to govern them and how they want to be governed.

"It is this democratic right of choice that puts elected governments at both the national and state levels on their toes so as not to incur the wrath of the electorate by being voted out of power during the periodic elections", Bala said.

Bala Mohammed made the pronouncement in his goodwill message to the people of the state in celebrating the 2022 Democracy Day saying, "we are today celebrating the 23rd Democracy Day which is a testimony to the fact that democratic governance has not only been firmly rooted but has also come to stay in Nigeria".

"It is gratifying to note that the primary elections of all the

political parties preparatory to the 2023 general elections were conducted peacefully.

This is a testimony of the entrenchment of democratic values and norms in our political system". Adding, "It is my hope that this attribute would be replicated during the 2023 general elections.

"Without wanting to sound immodest, I make bold to say that since we came on board as a government in 2019 courtesy of the mandate given to us by the good people of Bauchi State, we have justified the confidence reposed in us by executing various developmental projects for the socio-economic wellbeing of the people of the state", the Governor stated.

While giving a synopsis of some of the developmental projects of his administration in the past three years, the Governor said that protection of lives and property of the people has remained a primary responsibility of his government.

According to him, "We have therefore taken it upon ourselves to ensure security and guarantee a peaceful and tranquil atmosphere for the citizens of the State.

To ensure prompt response to

emergencies as well as for the maintenance of peace, the state Government procured 50 units of operational patrol vehicles to security agencies in the state".

He added that, "To this end, we have been working in synergy with security agencies. In spite of our efforts to maintain law and order, however, some undesirable elements are trying to cause confusion and disorder in the state.

The Governor also said that a committee has been appointed to investigate the remote and immediate causes of the disturbances and identify those behind them with a view to meting out appropriate penalty against them.

Bala appealed to the good people of the state to continue to be vigilant and report any suspicious movement of persons to the nearest authority.

In the area of infrastructure, the Governor said that his administration has constructed and rehabilitated roads in both urban and rural areas across the states saying that, "In addition to constructing new schools and hospitals, the dilapidated school and hospital buildings have been rehabilitated and provided with equipment.



Darius



Tambuwal

Foreign News



Lebanese President Michel Aoun meets with U.S. Senior Advisor for Energy Security Amos Hochstein at the presidential palace in Baabda, Lebanon

US envoy meets Lebanon president

THE United States envoy mediating between Lebanon and Israel over their disputed maritime border has met Lebanese President Michel Aoun in Beirut, the president's office said.

The talks on Tuesday focused on finding a solution to rising tensions between Beirut and Tel Aviv over the boundary between the two countries in the Mediterranean Sea.

Amos Hochstein, a senior adviser for energy security at the US State Department, arrived in Beirut on Monday following an invitation from the Lebanese government.

The invitation came after Israel set up a gas rig at the Karish field, which Israel says is part of its United Nations-recognised exclusive economic zone. Lebanon insists it is in a disputed area.

Israel and Hezbollah, the Lebanese Iran-backed Shia armed group, have been exchanging threats, with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah last week warning he would strike the gas rig at Karish.

The heavily armed Hezbollah, which has fought several wars with Israel, has repeatedly said in the past that it would use its weapons to protect Lebanon's economic rights.

Days later, Israel's army chief Aviv Kochavi

threatened Lebanon with "unprecedented bombing" saying that a future war would be very large.

The two countries, which have been officially at war since Israel's creation in 1948, both claim some 860 square kilometres (330 square miles) of the Mediterranean Sea.

Lebanon hopes to unleash offshore oil and gas production as it grapples with the worst economic crisis in its modern history.

During talks last year, the Lebanese delegation – a mix of army generals and professionals – offered a new map that claims an additional 1,430sq km (550sq miles) as Lebanese territory.

Lebanese media reported before Tuesday's meeting that Aoun would put forward several proposals, including one which shows readiness to give Israel full control of the Karish field in return for Lebanon getting the Qana field, part of which stretches deep into the disputed area.

During a visit to Lebanon in February, Hochstein handed Lebanese officials a proposal which gives more than half of the disputed area to Lebanon. Lebanon did not respond to the proposal.

Asked what the UN could do to advance the negotiations, Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for the UN secretary-general, said the body can "work with the parties to help

them find a solution through dialogues, through discussion, between both sides".

In 2012, Lebanon rejected a US proposal that would have seen the country getting 550sq km (212sq miles), or almost two-thirds of the area, with Israel getting the remaining third.

The offer was known at the time as the "Hoff Line", named after US diplomat Frederick Hoff who had mediated between the two countries

Denmark, Canada to sign deal ending dispute

A territorial dispute between Denmark and Canada over a barren and uninhabited rock in the Arctic has come to an end, with the two friendly countries agreeing to divide the tiny island between them.

Under the agreement, to be signed on Tuesday, a border will be drawn across the 1.3 square kilometres (0.5 square miles) Hans Island, in the waterway between the northwestern coast of the semi-autonomous Danish territory of Greenland and Canada's Ellesmere Island. The rock has no mineral reserves.

"It sends a clear signal that it is possible to resolve border disputes ... in a pragmatic and peaceful way, where the all parties become winners," said Danish Foreign Minister Jeppe Kofod.

He said it was "an important signal now that there is much war and unrest in the world".

Canada and Denmark agreed in 1973 to create a border through Nares Strait, halfway between Greenland and Canada. But they were unable to agree on which country would have sovereignty

over Hans Island, which lies about 1,100km (684 miles) south of the North Pole.

In the end, they decided to work out the question of ownership later.

In the following years, the territorial dispute – nicknamed the "whisky war" by the media – raised its head multiple times.

In 1984, Denmark's minister of Greenland affairs raised a Danish flag on the island, buried a bottle of Danish schnapps at the base of the flagpole and left a note saying: "Welcome to the Danish island." Canadians then planted their own flag and left a bottle of Canadian brandy.

Since then, the

countries have, in turns, hoisted their flags and left bottles of various spirits in tit-for-tat moves.

In 2002, Nana Flensburg was part of a Danish military crew that stood on the cliff to perform a flag-raising ceremony.

The Politiken newspaper on Tuesday quoted her as saying in her diary that "among the stones in the cairns were lots of bottles, glasses, etc. with documents that informed about previous visits to the island".

The agreement enters into force after the two countries' internal procedures have been completed. In Denmark, the Parliament must first give its consent to the agreement.



A group of Danish soldiers with their flag stand on the Hans Island between Greenland and Canada

Rebels kill 50 in Burkina Faso attack

At least 50 people have died in an attack by armed men on a village in northern Burkina Faso, a government spokesman said.

The attackers struck overnight between Saturday and Sunday in Seytenga commune, part of Seno province, which lies in borderlands where fighters linked to al-Qaeda and ISIL (ISIS) are embroiled in an armed uprising.

There were differing

accounts of the death toll. A security official told Reuters news agency on Monday at least 100 people had died, while a local source who did not wish to be named told the agency some 165 people had been killed.

The United Nations condemned the attack, which it said had "claimed many victims", and called on authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice.



Burkinabe police in the city of Ouahigouya in the north of the country

The European Union also condemned the incident, calling for "light to be shed on the circumstances of this killing".

Seytenga was the site of bloody fighting last week between rebels and government forces.

Eleven police were killed on Thursday, prompting a military operation that the army said led to the deaths of about 40 rebel fighters.

"The bloodshed was caused by reprisals to the army's actions," government spokesman Bilgo said.

"The country has been hit but the army is doing its job."

Humanitarian organisations in the region said about 3,000 people were being housed in neighbouring towns after fleeing from the village.

The attack is one of the bloodiest since a military coup in January, when

colonels in the national army – angered at the failure of officials to defeat the armed groups – ousted the country's elected president, Roch Marc Christian Kabore.

The country's new strongman, Lieutenant Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, immediately vowed to make security his key priority.

After a relative lull in fighting following the coup, attacks have resumed, with hundreds of civilian and military casualties over the past three months. Attacks have been concentrated in the country's north and east.

The landlocked Sahel state is in the grip of a seven-year-old armed uprising that has claimed more than 2,000 lives and forced some 1.9 million people to flee their homes in Burkina Faso since 2015.

Foreign Commentary

Proposed EU legislation and threat to biodiversity

The European Union's forthcoming environmental legislation is threatening to transfer environmental regulations to financial markets, critics warn. The proposal is framed as protecting the EU's biodiversity with legally binding nature restoration targets. As the EU's entire biodiversity strategy is based on a net gain principle – offsetting – critics of the proposal say it is a thinly veiled attempt to bolster the biodiversity offsetting the EU has been trying to push for the past decade, RACHEL DONALD Writes.

"THEY'RE transferring environmental regulations to market-based solutions," said Frederic Hache, co-founder of Green Finance Observatory, an NGO examining sustainable finance at the heart of Brussels.

The biodiversity offset market uses the same principles as its better-known carbon credit market cousin to justify [environmental destruction](#) by putting a price on natural resources and claiming substitutability – one ecosystem of the same financial value can be substituted for another. The Marker Wadden in IJsselmeer lake in The Netherlands is part of one of the largest nature restoration projects in Europe, intended to restore biodiversity [File: Bram Van De Biezen/EPA]

Proponents of such models say it will incentivise and mandate the private sector to take responsibility for nature protection, but civil society groups warn such financialisation poses a grave threat to biodiversity by reducing complex ecosystems and the species which depend on them to a monetary value.

These groups say putting a price on biodiversity, and creating an offset market, facilitates and justifies environmental destruction, not protection.

Offsetting models

There are multiple offsetting models, with the best being "like for like": if a private company wants to destroy a natural habitat for flamingos to build an airport, for example, they have to recreate that habitat elsewhere. But that is not the framework the EU pushed for.

The preferred model is "like for like or better" meaning the destruction of a natural habitat can be compensated by creating an ecosystem service of equivalent monetary value elsewhere.

Essentially, you can kill the flamingos in Spain if you are saving bats in Greece. This model creates a market: If the compensation is no longer specific you can restore in advance and build a coffer of biodiversity credits.

Worryingly, the European Commission pushed for the "like for like or better" model.



Concerned MEPs at the European Union wrote to the commission asking for clarification as to the whether the EU's "nature-based solutions", the term rolled out in all recent environmental legislation, included biodiversity offsetting.

The commission confirmed the "like for like or better" biodiversity offsetting is indeed part of its nature-based solutions framework, within the geography of the EU. People in bee costumes launch a campaign to stop the collapse of nature and to save rural livelihoods in the EU by phasing out pesticides [File: Stephanie Lecocq/EPA]

However, when asked for comment, the commission denied this.

"There is no EU biodiversity offset framework and there is no intention for the nature restoration law to benefit any biodiversity offset market," said Stefan Leiner, the head of European Commission's unit of Natural Capital and Ecosystem Health (ENV.D2).

"Its intention is rather to contribute to the continuous, long-term and sustained recovery of biodiverse and resilient nature across the union's land and sea areas through the restoration of ecosystems and hereby also to contribute to achieving the union's climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives and to contribute to meeting the union's international commitments," he

said.

Years of prep work

Green Finance Observatory claims the EU has been working on its biodiversity offset market for 10 years, establishing frameworks and models for how to put a price on complex ecosystems.

It is not yet clear if companies themselves will be allowed to establish those prices using those models, or if the EU will involve third-party regulatory bodies.

The unregulated nature of the carbon market has created a fleet of "carbon cowboys", the colloquial term for opportunistic financiers exploiting the lack of regulations to line their pockets with billions of dollars.

But the biodiversity market has largely gone under the radar because of the lack of legislation mandating offsetting – until now.

Hache claims these forthcoming mandatory restoration targets combined with net gain objectives would create demand for biodiversity offsetting.

"The devil is in the details and we look forward to reading the proposal. To be clear, restoration is a good thing but only if it comes in addition to curbing destruction and is neither financed by market schemes nor considered an offset," he said.

Natural capital

At the root of offset markets and nature-based solutions is the concept of natural capital – understanding nature as a series of services which benefit human wellbeing.

By this definition, biodiversity which does not improve human wellbeing is discounted. The EU

recently valued the natural capital of its ecosystems services at 234 billion euros (\$365bn).

"Does the fact that we know this figure incentivise us to protect nature? Or, on the contrary, will it facilitate its destruction, if we consider that it represents about one month's revenue of the oil and gas industry?" said Hache.

"This natural capital approach is only the first type. Once you have established that, then the idea is to establish markets based on biodiversity destruction-financial markets on the alleged compensation of biodiversity destruction."

While environmental regulations have a long history of effectively mitigating environmental destruction – the ban of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) gases linked to the Montreal protocol, bans on asbestos – the underlying assumption peddled in offset markets is that these regulations have failed.

Lacking evidence

Yet, proof on the success of offset markets is hard to find, with recent evidence pointing to human rights abuses and land grabbing from Indigenous populations in order to put forests on the carbon market.

Hache and his colleagues are concerned the biodiversity offset market could reproduce these same abuses.

Their concerns are not unfounded when considering there are currently more offset commitments than there is land to satisfy those commitments.

Source:BBC.



Feature

Addressing the challenges of estimated billing system in Nigeria

Estimated billing occurs when a customer does not have a meter, generally, no electricity distribution company (Discos), makes estimated billing its default billing system however, a review of electricity billing practices worldwide indicate that estimated billing is a standard and conventional tool even in advanced economies. TIMOTHY JOSEPH, Writes.

NIGERIA is one of the largest economies in Africa despite this great feat, it has one of the most significant energy deficits in the world. Although government aims to achieve and boost electricity access from 45% to 90% by 2030, which has been approached by using different techniques to achieve this boost. One of such approaches is the privatisation of the power sector in 2013, which aims to improve the power sector efficiency, attract investment and increase the total amount of electricity power generated, however, due to misaligned incentives, this approach has produced results of varying degrees. Some of the challenges which inhibited the privatisation of the sector include unreliable gas supply, vandalism, insufficient metering among others.

In the Nigerian power industry, many consumers are unmetered and the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) has attempted to reduce the metering gap in recent years through various means such as the banning and criminalization of estimated billing, which has done very little in closing the gap as metering issues still persist.

In another attempt to fix this challenge, the Federal Government launched the National Mass Metering Program (NMMP), an initiative geared towards mass Metering of Nigerians by providing loan facility from the Central Bank of Nigeria to the Discos for the procurement of meters for customers, and the local manufacturers. This is to ensure that it provides over 4 million meters as estimated billing encourage a lack of transparency and accountability, worsening tariff collection. In the first phase of the NMMP called (phase 0) over 1 million meters were estimated to be deployed in about 6 months but the process was delayed as prevailing challenges crippled the roll out of the assets. At the end of the phase, over a million meters were reportedly distributed. Data from the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) has shown that at least 8.1 million of the country's 12.1 million customers are unmetered. NERC said that only about 4.66 million end-users, representing 36% of the entire pool had been fully metered at the end of November 2021.

Consequently, the huge metering gap in Nigeria presents a Herculean challenge for the Discos when it comes to measuring the unmetered customers significantly, there is no more interested party in the comprehensive metering discussion than the DISCO's. And this is because it is estimated that metering alone reduces collection losses by 30%. Additionally, it minimizes the alienation of consumers who, often underpay or do not pay their electricity bills, based on the disputed bills. In recognition of impossibility of comprehensive metering within the near mid-term period, the regulator, the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) enacted a regulation on estimated billing methodology to guide the DISCOs in their billing. Nonetheless, application of the methodology remains a very contentious process, as we have seen cases of overbilling and cases of under billing which, the consumers never talk about. Understandably estimated billing is a vexing issue to un-metered customer, due to the perception of overbilling situations.



Estimated billing is a major contributor to non-technical losses as customers have resulted in illegal and corrupt practices to get out of paying those bills, they considered Exorbitant, which has led to constant and frequent clashes between the DISCO's employees and customers. These exorbitant bills have been linked to DISCOs trying to recover or improve their profit due to loss of revenues, this is due to lack of transparency and accountability between the DISCO's and their customers. About eighty percent of consumers grievances received by NERC is related to exorbitant bills, estimated billing, and poor metering infrastructure this practice has continued to be a thorn in the flesh of Nigerians as some non-delivery of paid prepaid meters and are forced to continue to pay for electricity not consumed.

It is not misinformation that the Discos are billing unnecessarily and even arbitrary to meet target. Imagine for instance even with the epileptic power supply across Jos and its environs the Jos Electricity Distribution Company (JED), has continued to give out exorbitant bills to consumers for power never consumed. Estimated customers in Jos pay between 15,000 to 22,000 monthly as the case may be while his neighbor who feeds from the same feeder/transformer but has prepaid meter spend between 5,000 to 10,000 on buying units in a month, where is the justification in estimated billing? The company also charge consumers to replace melted fuse in transformers, buy cables, buy poles if not the community will remain in perpetual darkness and at the end, the company will immediately come in and claim that this equipment belongs to them. And anytime this exploitations, takes place and you complain or take any action not in tandem with the policy of electricity company their personnel will

come and disconnect and sometimes remove what you bought.

The scam in estimated billing had previously caught the eye of the national assembly in 2018, the house of representatives moved to criminalize electricity estimated billing system except where a consumer's meter cannot be accessed by the service provider. The bill was introduced when Gbajabamila was the house leader and was passed into law, but was not assented by the president. However, it was introduced again in the 9th assembly.

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) has not lived up to its expectations with respect to estimated billing. The commission tend to work with the Discos to exploit consumers. Even after issuing policy guidelines for conduct of business in the power sector, it ends there, the commission does not care if Discos adheres to the rules or not, how many time has NERC issued statements to the effect that customers who are not metered should not pay estimated billing? How many times did NERC direct Discos to meter certain customers annually without results?

Discos have flagrantly abused the procedures for estimated billing of electricity consumers; therefore, one thinks there is no justification for estimated billing of electricity customers. Although in some cases estimated billing is calculated based on the level and quantity of supply in an area and not necessarily driven by collection of targets as it is widely believed.

The Federal government through the Minister of Finance, Zainab Ahmed, had earlier announced that the federal government had quietly removed all subsidies in the power sector. by implications, consumers may be compelled to pay more for energy not

consumed. The federal government should not only stop at removing subsidy, it should find a way of addressing this issue because this exorbitant charges with minimum electricity supply if not addressed may lead to chaos in communities as many have started protesting the issue.

Nigerians are ready to be metered and would readily accept prepaid meters, as this would give them control over their consumption and help install them energy management. This will in turn improve efficiency, utility operational cost, revenue collection and reduce energy wastage. In a recent report by the Punch, the Executive Director, Research and Advocacy Association Nigeria Electricity Distribution Company (ANED), Sunday Oduntan, revealed that as at the last quarter of 2021, the total shortfall in the power sector is about 1.6 trillion. Shortfalls result in debt, which inhibit further investment and development in the sector.

It is on record that consumers are mostly at the receiving end of the general inefficiency of Discos. Therefore, it is our obligation as Nigerians to speak up and ensure that the right things are done. However, consumers on their part need to rise up to their responsibility of prompt payment of electricity bills, which will enable the industry to have the revenue requirement for efficient service delivery.

It should be noted that with the privatisation of the power sector in Nigeria, it has become personal business which the companies need to provide the necessary equipment to consumers before they start billing them and in situations where consumers invest in the company's supply chain the company should compensate them.

Timothy Joseph is of the Ministry of Information and Communication

EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

10 ways to avoid picky eating from the start

BY ALLIE TICKTIN

Mealtimes with a little one can be stressful. As a parent, it's easy to feel defeated when your child refuses everything green, or anything that is not animal shaped. I often have parents come to me completely defeated after feeding their toddler nothing but snack foods for days, because they simply refuse to eat anything else.

As an occupational therapist, helping parents understand their little ones' eating preferences is one of my favorite things to do. I'm a complete foodie now, but I haven't always been. I used to be an *extremely* picky eater; I survived most of my childhood eating only buttered noodles and grilled cheese. It wasn't until I was in OT school that I was able to expand my diet, and now I love teaching parents the most effective ways to expand their child's diet from the beginning.

Here are my top 10 ways to avoid picky eating from the start:

1. Play with food before eating it.

As a child is still learning about the world and exploring new textures, a new food can be overwhelming. It is vital that, before expecting our little ones to eat a new food, we first allow them to explore that food. Get messy! Talk about the texture, smell, color, size and temperature. Then get creative! I love creating artwork with food and building structures out of food.

2. Never force feed.

This is a big one. Force-feeding your child can create a negative relationship with food, even into adulthood. Contrary to your goals, it may actually lead your child to eat even fewer foods. It can also lead to poor self-regulation around food. We want children to be able to learn how to control how much they eat and develop a healthy relationship with eating. Force-feeding will do the complete opposite! So, don't force feed, never use the phrase "eat it," and avoid bribing your child into taking a bite.

3. Let your child be in control.

This one is hard for many parents. Food is personal for everyone, including children. When children feel out of control, they



become behavioral and may refuse all foods, often even highly preferred ones. To avoid this, always give your child a few choices during mealtime. Offer carrots, cucumbers or broccoli and let your child choose. Try to always include one preferred food in those choices.

There will be times when they choose nothing, and it's important to be okay with that sometimes. As hard as it seems, the best thing you can do is to accept that that is where they are on their journey that day and move on. Don't make a big deal out of it and they won't either.

4. Make food a social activity.

Sitting down and having mealtime as a family is important. Whenever possible, try to sit down at a table to have a meal with your family. Food is an

important part of every culture, and it is very social. It's important that parents model good eating patterns for their children – and family meal time takes pressure off the child to eat because everyone is enjoying the food.

5. Offer a variety of foods to your child.

It is easy to get into a routine and feed your little one the same foods each week, but this often leads to picky eating. Mix it up and try new flavors each week. This will help prepare your little one for a balanced diet in the future.

6. Never use food as a reward.

It's easy to offer a child their favorite cupcake in exchange for getting dressed, but using food – and especially foods loaded with sugar – as a reward is a slippery slope. It not only creates unhealthy eating habits, but may also lead to overeating in the future, because children learn to reward themselves with food as they get older.

7. Introduce foods multiple times.

If your child does not like the food on the first try, it's okay – keep trying. It is completely normal for a child to reject a food when it is first introduced. In fact, it can take anywhere from 10-20 times just seeing a food before a child will try it. Don't give up and keep introducing new foods. Just remember, do not force your little one to eat the food; let them try it when they are ready. Your job is just to keep putting it on the table.

8. Let them get involved in cooking.

It's not always easy to build in the time (or deal with the mess), but allowing a child to be involved with mealtime prep not only fosters a sense of achievement, but it helps children understand and trust what is in the food that they're eating. When kids are involved in the cooking process,

they are much more likely to try new foods.

9. Keep mealtime fun.

Mealtime can often become stressful

with a heavy focus on making sure that our little ones eat a fully balanced diet. This puts a ton of unneeded pressure on our little ones and makes mealtime more difficult. Keep conversation light during mealtime and make it fun! Talk about your child's favorite play activities, ask about friends, and laugh at the table. Eating should be fun!

10. Allow your child to refuse foods.

Yes, mamas... it is okay to spit food out! We never want our children to feel like they have to finish a food if they try it. It is extremely important that kids know, if they decide to try a food, they do not need to finish it. They can even spit it out if they don't like it. Some kids simply will not like certain foods and that's okay! As adults, we also have our food preferences. If your child refuses outright, start by asking if he or she will allow the food on their plate without any pressure to eat it. They may still refuse (and that's okay!). To start, just having it on the table is enough.

This article was originally published on 4.21.2018



EVE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Health

Low back pain specific to women

PMS is a condition many women get before their periods. It has many potential symptoms, and you likely won't have all of them. Broadly, symptoms include:

- physical symptoms, such as: lower back pain, headache, fatigue, bloating, emotional and behavioral symptoms, such as: Mood swings, food cravings, anxiety, trouble concentrating.

PMS usually starts a few days before your period, and it ends within a day or two after your period starts.

Premenstrual dysmorphic disorder (**PMDD**) **Endometriosis**

Endometriosis is a condition where the tissue that lines the uterus, known as endometrial tissue, grows outside the uterus.

With endometriosis, this tissue often grows on the ovaries, fallopian tubes, and other tissues lining the pelvis. It may even grow around the urinary tract and bowel.

Pain is the most common symptom of endometriosis. Other symptoms include:

- very painful menstrual cramps
- pain during or after sex
- low back and pelvic pain
- pain with bowel movements or urination when you have your period

Endometriosis can also cause bleeding or spotting between your periods. Digestive issues like bloating and diarrhea can be common too, especially during your period. Endometriosis may make it harder for you to get pregnant.

Dysmenorrhea

Very painful menstruation is known as dysmenorrhea. Although it's usually manageable, it can be very severe in some people. You may be at a higher risk for dysmenorrhea if you:

- are under the age of 20
- are a smoker



- bleed heavily during your periods
- disease

Back pain is common during pregnancy. It happens as your center of gravity shifts, you gain weight, and your hormones relax your ligaments in preparation for birth.

For most women, back pain

happens between the fifth and seventh months of pregnancy, but it can start much earlier. You're more likely to have back pain during pregnancy if you already have lower back issues.

Other low back pain causes

There are also causes of lower back pain that can affect anyone of any sex. Some of the most common causes include

Muscle strain

A muscle or ligament strain is one of the most common causes of lower back pain.

If you continue doing the type of movement that strained the muscle, it can eventually cause back spasms.

Sciatica

Sciatica is a symptom caused by compression or injury of the sciatic nerve, the longest nerve in your body. This is the nerve that travels from your lower spine through your buttocks and down the back of your legs.

Sciatica causes a burning pain or a pain that feels like a shock in your low back. It usually extends down one leg. In severe cases, you may also have leg numbness and weakness.

A herniated disc is when one of the discs that cushions your vertebrae gets compressed and bulges outward. This can eventually cause the disc to rupture. Pain is caused by the bulging disc pressing on a nerve.

Disc degeneration

As you age, the discs in your spine can start wearing down. Degeneration can also be caused by injuries or repetitive motion. Most people have some disc degeneration after age 40. It doesn't always cause pain, but it can cause severe pain in some people.

Degeneration is most common in your neck and lower back. The pain may extend to your buttocks and thighs, and it may come and go.

Home remedies for low back pain

If your back pain is caused by conditions related to your menstrual period or a muscle strain, you may want to try the following home remedies to ease

your lower back pain:

- **A heating pad.** A heating pad applied to your back can boost circulation, which, in turn, allows nutrients and oxygen to get to the muscles in your back.

- A warm bath. A warm bath can improve circulation and reduce muscle pain and stiffness.

- OTC painkillers. Over-the-counter (OTC) nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), such as ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), naproxen (Aleve), and aspirin, can help ease back pain and other types of pain associated with your period.

- **Gentle stretching.** Regular stretching may help reduce lower back pain or prevent it from coming back.

- **An ice pack.** If your back pain is due to a muscle strain or an injury, an ice pack may help reduce inflammation, pain, and bruising. Ice packs work best within the first 48 hours of a muscle strain or injury.

- **A pillow.** Placing a pillow between your knees if you sleep on your side, or under your knees if you sleep on your back, may help ease back pain and discomfort.

- **Good lumbar support.** Using a chair with good lumbar support may help ease your back pain when sitting.

When to see a doctor

In some cases, it's important to follow up with a doctor to determine the cause of your back pain. See your doctor as soon as possible if you experience any of the following:

- you're unable to stand or walk
- your back pain is accompanied with a fever, or you're unable to control your bowel or bladder
- you have pain, numbness, or tingling in your legs
- the pain extends down your legs
- you have severe abdominal pain
- your back pain is severe and interferes with your daily life
- you have symptoms of endometriosis
- you have pain during pregnancy with vaginal bleeding, a fever, or pain while urinating
- you have back pain after a fall or accident
- there's no improvement in your pain after a week of home care

Depending on the cause of your lower back pain, your doctor may be able to provide treatment beyond home remedies or self-care measures.

Treatment options prescribed by your doctor may include:

- muscle relaxants
- cortisone injections
- hormonal birth control for endometriosis, dysmenorrhea, PMS, and PMDD
- antidepressants, which may relieve PMS and also help with certain types of back pain
- surgery for severe endometriosis, which involves removing endometrial tissue from areas where it has grown outside of the uterus

Healthnews.com



Editorial

Removing religion from politics

THE two dominant political parties in Nigeria recently concluded their respective party primaries where the All Progressives Congress, (APC) endorsed its presidential candidate Ahmed Bola Tinubu while the Peoples Democratic Party, (PDP) nominated Alhaji Atiku Abubakar as its presidential candidates for the 2023 general elections.

PRIOR to the primary elections, one of the crucial issues unabatedly discussed at the public domain was whether the ideology of pushing for a Muslim-Muslim ticket is morally right in a secular and heterogeneous state like Nigeria. For some reputed scholars however, Nigeria shouldn't think of providing any platform for nomination of a high ranking candidate within the prism of religious sentiments.

REMINISCENT, in 1993, the Social Democratic Party, (SDP) after its primary election issued the late MKO Abiola a presidential ticket after which he eventually picked Babagana Kingibe, a Muslim as running mate. The duo eventually won the election before it was annulled by General Ibrahim Babangida. The choice for a Muslim Muslim ticket then wasn't a problem possibly because for the citizens of this country, religion was not considered a dividing line, there was much tolerance and quality was not compromised.

UNFORTUNATELY, while the Muslim-Muslim ticket was accepted years back, the case today is quite different. It is very obvious, that such a venture would not only be fruitless but completely disastrous.

A renowned Muslim scholar posited in one of his scholarly talks that most religions of the world come with one mission to guide human beings and not to rule them. According to him, Islam like other religions is not a constitution that can be used in a government and it works. That is the reason why most Islamic governments have failed as a result of such lopsidedness which does not give room for fairness and justice.

IN the aftermath of the most recent political party primaries, many Nigerians have continued to express fears over the overwhelming religious sentiments heralding the choice of Vice Presidential Candidates in the country. Several groups have expressed fears that the lopsided disposition of these candidates may spell doom for the country and democracy if not handled with care. At transitional moments like this, the utterances by some selfish citizens of this country is enough signal that an all Muslim or Christian-Christian ticket in the 2023 general elections is not only unpatriotic but dangerous and aimed at marginalizing others in the polity.

WE make bold to say that Nigeria by now should have gone beyond the issue of igniting acts of bigotry which would at the end of it create problems that will lead the nation into a state of disintegration and anarchy. To help build a better country, we must continue to pursue nationalists ideologies aimed at consolidating on the dreams of our founding fathers.

FOR us to continue to sustain true and rewarding democracy where the citizens of this nation will benefit from developmental dividends, the people must sanitize their thoughts and ensure that other regions of the nation are integrated in our democratic processes irrespective of their religion and, or, creed. We must, therefore, jettison all forms of religious bigotry in the nomination and selection of our government and, or, elected officers as such acts are capable of truncating our quest for ensuring the emergence of a virile nation for the benefit of the citizenry.

It is becoming very disturbing with the reported cases of Tin miners either trapped or killed daily at mining sites across the Northern Senatorial Zone of the state.

In recent times, there were not less than 10 reported incidents that involved miners within Jos and its environs.

It is a common sight to see mining activities with a large number of people comprising men, women both young and old taking part in the digging of the precious mineral which has now turned out to be a source of getting income for mostly the unemployed in the society.

Although a lot of money is made from the venture where an individual can get up to a Million Naira depending on the amount of mineral deposit in a particular well.

It is a known fact that these days, mining has become a lucrative business that is bringing a lot of income to some families either as miners or those selling food or drinks at the sites. Even transporters are said to be making brisk businesses from conveying the mineral and other equipment as well as individuals who troop in search of the golden fleece.

However, the risks involved far outweighs the gains of the mining activities which as a result, many lives have been lost in the process.

The continued use of old techniques in the mining sites always put the miners in great danger especially when the digging gets to several meters



PLSG, please enforce safety regulations for Tin miners

below the earth's surface with many tunnels offering no support in case of an eventual collapse.

Sometimes the miners in the rush to get to the depth and position of the deposit, safety precautions are thrown to the winds, and thereby incidents do occur with fatalities.

What may be the most dangerous aspect of the business is when the risk is taken a little further especially now in the rainy season when the ground has absorbed plenty water and moisture and is no longer safe for digging. Yet, these miners for the sake of making money do take the risk of a lifetime that may claim their lives.

It is given the present circumstances of losing dear

ones at the mining sites that I wish to use the medium of the Nigerian Standard Newspaper to call on the plateau state government to urgently enforce laws that would enhance the safety of lives of the miners.

Perhaps, it might be ideal for both Traditional and other community leaders to come in at this time, to make sure mining activities are done within laid down rules and regulations, even though most of the mining is done illegally.

The Nigerian police force and the Nigerian Civil Defence Corps must make efforts to prevent illegal mining no matter how lucrative the business can be.

Prevention is of course cheaper and better than cure.

Mathias Bok writes from Zaramaganda, Jos

Heipang Road needs rehabilitation

IT is a known fact that Plateau State which prides itself as, Home of Peace and Tourism should be seen to have good roads network to compliment its natural beauty and also enhance free movement of goods and services.

The Heipang-Jos Road has in the recent past, been doled with potholes and in some cases the road shoulders have been badly washed away by rain flooding.

I hope that the Plateau State government under the able leadership of Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong would as a matter of urgency include the rehabilitation of the Heipang-Jos road as one of his priority projects which I believe would enhance smooth drive coming into the state especially from the airport.

I can see that with the airport locataed there, it is therefore an entry point for

many first timers to see what the rescue administration is doing. Moreover, it is an agrarian area where farming is done.

With good road there, it will afford the farmers a convenient means for transporting their farm produce to the markets and also empower them economically.

By Dalyop Mercy Yakubu, Heipang

Standard Cartoon



Opinion

Yilwatda, 2023 and the Plateau vision

By **STEPHEN DANJUMA KWANDE**

Before the emergence of Dr. Nentawe Yiltwada as the governorship candidate of the All Progressive Congress (APC) in Plateau State, other eminent contestants were also in the race for Little Rayfield. Most of them are from the Central Zone of the state which is generally believed to be the zone to produce the governor of the state. This rotation as agreed by politicians is to give some semblance of equity as politicians jostle for political offices. Therefore, right now, it turns out to favour the Central Zone of the state which comprises Mangu, Bokkos, Pankshin, Kanke and Kanam.

This understanding which is irrespective of political party seems to be binding on all, in the state. So far, this arrangement has been generally upheld except in 2015 when the then governor of the state, Da Jonah Jang failed in his attempt to disregard it. It was vehemently resisted by the electorate with the trumping of the then governor's candidate and this has taught politicians in the state a valuable lesson.

The outcome of the APC governorship primary which

produced Dr. Yilwatda did not come without resentment from some contestants who lost out. Some aspirants staged a walkout as the event got underway, alleging a skewed process in favour of the eventual winner. Little wonder that when the result eventually came out, aggrieved aspirants believed that the winner, Dr Nentawe Yilwatda was a government-backed candidate. Even the Deputy Governor who was a co-aspirant staged a walkout too.

My position on the matter is not intended to stir further debate or conversation since the primary has come and gone but to steer a course of action towards healing the wounds for a peaceful, progressive Plateau State.

The task before all the former aspirants is to move on. They should be able to chart the path of reconciliation if the party is to capture and retain power in the state. Though the task before them is herculean, they cannot afford to go to the polls with a divided house.

Even if the governor had interest in who emerged as the party's standard bearer, it is only human that one should be interested in one's successor for the sake of continuity.

Some have gone to argue that former governor Jang attempted to impose a successor but was resisted. True, but the scenarios are different. Jang did not respect the zoning formula of the state. He brought someone eminently qualified but that was against the sentiment then because the person he brought came from his clan. This was the crux of the matter and Plateau resisted it. If he had brought someone from the Southern zone in accordance with the principle of rotation, the story would have been different.

The primary election which was held peacefully merely produced what I call "first among equals". All the aspirants as I mentioned earlier are eminently qualified to govern the state. However, what worked in favour of Dr. Nentawe was that he had won the hearts of many in the state with impeccable achievements. He had

everything working for him. His accomplishments at an early age placed him head and shoulders above many of his peers and accorded him the recognition he now enjoys.

I have interacted with many people and I have not seen or heard anything untoward about his character. Even if there is any, not being infallible as anyone else, it is apparently not enough to make anyone lose sleep.

The central message here is that the whole APC family should rally round the winner and ensure victory at the polls. Plateau is a unique state and we must remember that a house divided against itself will not stand. It will be in the interest of all APC members to sheathe their sword and work for victory. With due respect to the former aspirants, it is good to show grace in defeat while the winner shows magnanimity in victory.

The act of magnanimity will start the process of healing. It entails meeting all co-aspirants, and discussing how to move the party forward for the purpose of winning the next election.

Dr. Nentawe's personality, profile, carriage have earned him some quantum of respect in the eyes of the delegates hence his emergence. I implore him to urge his supporters to calm down and embrace all constructive criticisms. They should also exhibit maturity as the journey to Little Rayfield gets underway.

The sky is your limit if you and your team show grace. Many people have already testified to the strength of your character, your humility, resourcefulness, your vision. Plateau will be expecting so much from you. Our former and present governors have worked to the best of their ability and we expect you to build on what they have done.

Surely, you will have overwhelming support from the people of Plateau State. We are already enamored of your blue print, your vision and mission. The security challenges facing the state can be addressed with the right frame of mind. And your success will be determined by the caliber of people around you. The right people will help you make the difference as the election approaches.

If we don't help each other, then who will do so? Barbara Mandrell's 1948.

In his Maiden Speech Alh. Abubakar Sadiq Yelwa, the Managing Director Hydro Power Producing Development Commission pointedly said "My Vision and Mission is to see that those promises made to our people 48 Years ago by successful governments become a reality"

This captivating Quote from Mandrell's aptly captures the unique Personality of Alh. Abubakar Sadiq-Yelwa, the visionary and dynamic pioneer Managing Director of Hydro Power Producing Development Commission (HYPPADEC)

Interestingly, Alh. Abubakar Sadiq-Yelwa's antecedents and pedigree as one time commissioner for lands and Housing in Kebbi State and whose meritorious service to the State is without blemished and commendable. As he served with due diligence, tenacity, which are pointer to the fact that, his wealth of experience, exposure, will help bring to bear the desire development to the overall Communities in the Hydro Power producing Communities.

Be it as it may, Alh. Abubakar Sadiq Yelwa further enunciating on teething problems viz a viz Challenges been faced by the host Communities said "Most of the Communities have lost their houses, roads and Business Entrepreneurship due to the effect of the construction of kainji dam

In this regard, Alh. Abubakar Sadiq

Putting the right man in the right place

By **FATAI IBRAHIM**

Yelwa is like the great Greek Philosopher Aristotle who once posited that "Problem known is problem half solved" as one of the focal and purposeful leadership. Alh. Sadiq Abubakar Yelwa's Vision is his priority for entrepreneurship and human Capital Development in the affected communities, as way of giving them a new lease of life, which is now the new normal under the unique leadership of President Muhammed Buhari (GCFR)

Alh. Abubakar Sadiq Yelwa and his amiable team in HYPADDEC Commission, are always rising up to the occasion, by providing the necessary recipe in accelerating development of the affected Communities ravaged due to the effects of the Construction of Kainji dam.

Dr. Osborne C.J once said " Unless you try to do beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow" Alh. Abubakar Sadiq Yelwa paradigm shift, is on the youths changing their focus from white Collar job, to self-reliance, as well as giving Women equal opportunities to learn trade of their choice, as a way of improving their economic prosperity for the general wellbeing of the family.

These great attributes of teaching people how to fish in the affected communities, instead of giving them fish are great virtues of our able Managing Director Alh. Abubakar Sadiq Yelwa and his team in alleviating poverty, which is in line with the wise saying of one of the greatest motivational speaker's Dr. John Mason in his book " Why asked Why" where he adumbrate." One of the most exciting decisions, you can make as a

visionary leader is to be on the lookout for opportunities to invest in others"

This Write -up will not be complete without commending numerous initiatives and giant strides of Alh. Abubakar Sadiq Yelwa and his team, geared towards the common good of the greatest majority in the affected communities of hydro power producing states. As the great successes achieved so far in the Commission is due to the team spirit in existence in the commission, this is due to his ability in putting the right man in the right place as opined by Gen. Collin Powell who once said " No General can fight his battle alone, his success depends upon his ability, putting the right man in the right place'

Ibrahim can be reached on fataiib5@gmail.com

Unless you try to do beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow" Alh. Abubakar Sadiq Yelwa paradigm shift, is on the youths changing their focus from white Collar job, to self-reliance, as well as giving Women equal opportunities to learn trade of their choice, as a way of improving their economic prosperity for the general wellbeing of the family.

Change of Name

<p>BAMIDELE</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOSEPH AYODELE BAMIDELE, now wish to be known and addressed as BAMIDELE MICHEAL AYODELE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>LENGSHAK</p> <p>I, formerly known as OTOIBHILI SARAH RAYMOND, now wish to be known and addressed as LENGSHAK SARAH OTOIBHILI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SULEIMAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as SULEMAN WISDOM GOSOMJI, now wish to be known and addressed as SULEIMAN WADALNENNE WISDOM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>MAMWAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as INNOCENT MAMWAN, now wish to be known and addressed as MAMWAN INNOCENT YOHANNA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>DAPCHIR</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAPCHIR RINGPON, now wish to be known and addressed as DAPCHIR RINGPON FECWAT. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>LIVINUS</p> <p>I, formerly known as UMEH FELICITY UJUNWA, now wish to be known and addressed as LIVINUS OLIVIA UJUNWA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>MRS. AKIN</p> <p>I, formerly known as AHMED SEKUYEN ISMAIL, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. AKIN SEKUYEN ISMAIL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>GOMNA</p> <p>I, formerly known as GOMNA, SUNDAY KULE, GOMNA, SUNDAY SHAGIYA, now wish to be known and addressed as GOMNA, SUNDAY KULE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>GADUNG</p> <p>I, formerly known as GRACE DUNG, now wish to be known and addressed as GADUNG GRACE DUNG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>MATHIAS</p> <p>I, formerly known as MATHIAS STEPHNIE SELGAI, now wish to be known and addressed as MATHIAS STEPHNIE ANDUWISH. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>EHIZOJIE</p> <p>I, formerly known as EHIZOJIE GIFT, now wish to be known and addressed as EHIZOJIE OSEMEN GIFT. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>AMAECHE</p> <p>I, formerly known as AMAECHE SABASTINE MIRACLE, now wish to be known and addressed as AMAECHE PETER CHIBUIKE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>AMAECHE</p> <p>I, formerly known as AMAECHE ABUBE MIRACLE, now wish to be known and addressed as AMAECHE VICTOR EBUBECHUKWU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>JOSHUA</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOSEPH JOSHUA IDOWU, now wish to be known and addressed as JOSHUA IDOWU JOSEPH. Correct date of birth is 12/02/1952 not 14/02/1952. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>EKESHILI</p> <p>I, formerly known as TAFIDA LARAI USMAN, now wish to be known and addressed as EKESHILI LARAI CELESTINE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>CHUWANG</p> <p>I, formerly known as CHUWANG KACHOLLOM GYANG, now wish to be known and addressed as CHUWANG KACHOLLOM NEHEMIAH. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>AGYAK</p> <p>I, formerly known as AGYAK BECKY, now wish to be known and addressed as AGYAK REBECCA BECKY. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>IBRAHIM</p> <p>I, formerly known as ALIYU BELLO, now wish to be known and addressed as IBRAHIM BELLO. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>IRARIMAM</p> <p>I, formerly known as IRARIMAM MUSA MUSA, now wish to be known and addressed as IRARIMAM BALA MUSA. Correct date of birth is 04/06/2004 not 03/04/2004. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>PATSHAK</p> <p>I, formerly known as PATSHAK ENTANG, now wish to be known and addressed as PATSHAK ENTANG KEFAS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>DAVWAT</p> <p>I, formerly known as YAMPIN MANASSEH, now wish to be known and addressed as DAVWAT MANASSEH YAMPIN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>NGUWAP</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOSHUA GABRIEL MUTKUT, now wish to be known and addressed as NGUWAP GABRIEL JOSHUA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>JANET</p> <p>I, formerly known as JANET MASHANO YUNANA, now wish to be known and addressed as JANET YAKUBU EPHRAIM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>LONGCHAM</p> <p>I, formerly known as LONGCHAM NANKUME NOBERT, now wish to be known and addressed as LONGCHAM YONGDONG NAANGOEME. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>MRS. GOMWALK</p> <p>I, formerly known as MISS. PANDANG NUHU GOLIS, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. GOMWALK PANDANG TIMOTHY. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NKON</p> <p>I, formerly known as BADUNG BITRUS RWANG, now wish to be known and addressed as NKON BADUNG BIRTUS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NANLEP</p> <p>I, formerly known as NANLEP YAKUBU PODAR, now wish to be known and addressed as NANLEP ILIYA ITSE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DANLADI</p> <p>I, formerly known as BLESSING INNOCENT, now wish to be known and addressed as DANLADI BLESSING YILJI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MOSES</p> <p>I, formerly known as MUSA MARKUS SUNDAY, now wish to be known and addressed as MOSES MARCUS JANG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>LAR</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOSEPH LOHBYEN, now wish to be known and addressed as LAR SELYA BOLGANG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>ROSE</p> <p>I, formerly known as NIMMYEL ROSE TELZE, now wish to be known and addressed as ROSE LADAN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MAMDOM</p> <p>I, formerly known as PONFA CHRISTIANA, now wish to be known and addressed as MAMDOM CHRISTIANA PONFA. Correct date of birth is 05/05/1997. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NTIHIM</p> <p>I, formerly known as DASHE MICHAEL, now wish to be known and addressed as NTIHIM DAMYIL DASHE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>TENGAKE</p> <p>I, formerly known as DADAR EVELYN EZEKIEL, now wish to be known and addressed as TENGAKE EVELYN LIDIMMA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MALLO</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOSHUA ELIZABETH UMBULE, now wish to be known and addressed as MALLO ELIZABETH JOSHUA. Correct date of birth is 23/11/1996. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JOYCE</p> <p>I, formerly known as ARIN ANAP AMAH, now wish to be known and addressed as JOYCE ARIN AMAH. Correct date of birth is 18/9/1992 not 18/09/1990. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>BELLO</p> <p>I, formerly known as BELLO MAHAMUOD, now wish to be known and addressed as BELLO MUHAMMAD MUSBAHU. Correct date of birth is 03/02/1999 not 09/01/1988. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>BUTKO</p> <p>I, formerly known as BUTKO SYLVESTER, now wish to be known and addressed as BUTKO SYLVESTER CHAKVONG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>PAM</p> <p>I, formerly known as PAM KACHOLL L., now wish to be known and addressed as PAM KACHOLLOM LUKA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DANJUMA</p> <p>I, formerly known as DANJUMA MUSA, now wish to be known and addressed as DANJUMA MUSA GAI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JA'AFARU</p> <p>I, formerly known as JA'AFARU IDRIS DAVOU, now wish to be known and addressed as JA'AFARU IDRIS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>FADIMATU</p> <p>I, formerly known as FADIMATU SABIU MUHAMMAD, now wish to be known and addressed as FADIMATU MUHAMMED SABIU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>EZEKIEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as EZEKIEL BOT DICK, now wish to be known and addressed as EZEKIEL DABOI DICK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SYLVANUS</p> <p>I, formerly known as SYLVANUS EZEKIEL GYANG, now wish to be known and addressed as SYLVANUS EZEKIEL DICK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ZUBAIR</p> <p>I, formerly known as ELEMOSHO ABDULLAHI ZUHAIRO, now wish to be known and addressed as ZUBAIR ABDULRASHEED ELEMOSHO. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MANDUT</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOSHUA ALFRED, now wish to be known and addressed as MANGUT ALFRED JOSHUA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DADING</p> <p>I, wish to state that DADING CLETUS HANIEL and HANIEL DADING CLETUS is one and the same person, henceforth wish to be known and addressed as DADING CLETUS HANIEL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ADAM</p> <p>I, formerly known as ADAMU AMINA ABDURRAHMAN, now wish to be known and addressed as ADAM AMINA ABDURRAHMAN. Correct date of birth is 01/01/1977 not 05/07/1976. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>KABIR</p> <p>I, formerly known as KABIRU IBRAHIM GYARAM, now wish to be known and addressed as KABIR IBRAHIM GYARAM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DASSAM</p> <p>I, formerly known as DASSAM ASHAM DAWAKI, now wish to be known and addressed as DASSAM ASHAM AYUBA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ABDURRAHMAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as MARYAM SANI ABDURRAHMAN, now wish to be known and addressed as ABDURRAHMAN MARYAM SANI. Correct date of birth is 21/08/1997 not 01/01/1978. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DAHOR</p> <p>I, formerly known as CHENDAN DYELSHAK SUNDAY, now wish to be known and addressed as DAHOR DYELSHAK SUNDAY. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ORJUDE</p> <p>I, formerly known as NNANYELUGO DONATUS ORJUDE, now wish to be known and addressed as ORJUDE DONATUS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DATIR</p> <p>I, formerly known as JACOB NATHANIEL, now wish to be known and addressed as DATIR NATHANIEL JACOB. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>IDRIS</p> <p>I, formerly known as IDRIS KABIRU MOHAMMED, now wish to be known and addressed as IDRIS KABIRU MUHAMMAD. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DAMIAP</p> <p>I, formerly known as PATRICK ROMANUS DAMIAP LONGS, now wish to be known and addressed as DAMIAP ROMANUS PATRICK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DADA</p> <p>I, formerly known as NENBAMMUN DADA GANTANG, now wish to be known and addressed as DADA NENBAMMU ZAURE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>TALATU</p> <p>I, formerly known as YILMEHER TALATU BARDE, now wish to be known and addressed as TALATU BARDE YAKMUT. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SUNDAY</p> <p>I, formerly known as ESTHER AJANG, now wish to be known and addressed as SUNDAY AYISA ESTHER. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>FELIX</p> <p>I, formerly known as AMOS FREP'AN DIPILIP, now wish to be known and addressed as FELIX FREP'AN DIPILIP. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>

News

Northern Governors felicitate with Abubakar at 80

By PALANG KASMI

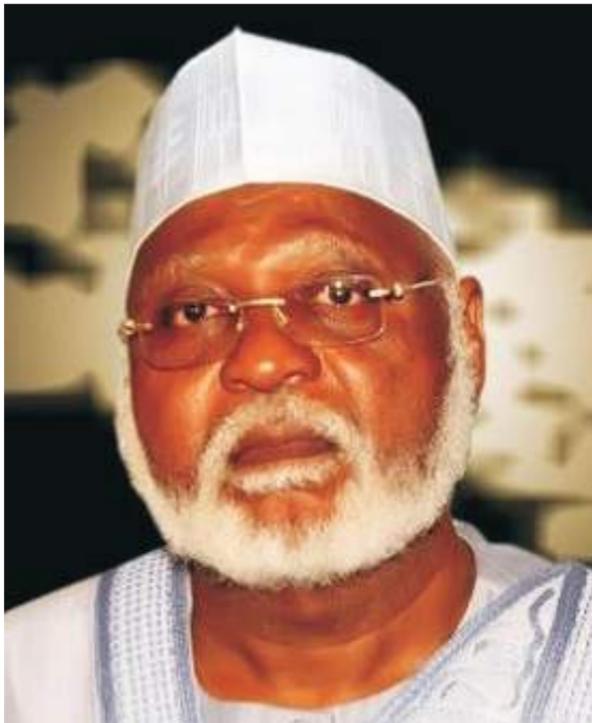
NIGERIA'S 19 Northern Governors have sent warm felicitations to celebrate former Nigeria's Head of State, Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar at 80.

The governors in a goodwill message by their Chairman, Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State in a statement Monday described the former Head of State as a man who has worked to consolidate democracy and good governance in the country.

"Abubakar is a man of integrity, patriotism, fairness and justice which have defined his public and private life" said the Governors spokesperson.

Lalong also said the General served the nation actively in the military, rising to the pinnacle to become the Head of State where he steered the ship of the state successfully and played a pivotal role in the democratic process by handing over to a civilian administration in 1999.

"You have remained a strong advocate for the consolidation of democracy,



Abubakar

accountability and good governance through your engagements under the National Peace Committee where you continue to interact with stakeholders and pursue democratic ideals", said Lalong. He added that the Northern Governors Forum have benefited from his fatherly role and wise counsel in addressing the challenges of the nation and those of the region.

While wishing Gen. Abubakar many more

years of good health, God's grace and protection, Lalong urged the celebrant to continue to avail the nation and the northern region his reservoir of knowledge and experience.

From JOHN FWAH Kaduna

A combined team of police and military security operatives, Monday, foiled an attack by bandits on the Kaduna-Abuja highway.

The security team killed one of the bandits and recovered one AK47 rifle along with nine bandits operational motorcycles.

Spokesman of Kaduna State Police Command, Mohammed Jalige, confirmed the incident in a statement issued in Kaduna.

Jalige said: "The dividends of the renewed vigour and purposeful synergy between the police and the military in Kaduna State came to the fore, yet again, on Monday, June 13, 2022, about 0255hrs when the combined team of Operation Puff Adder of the police and Operation Thunder Strike of the army, while on routine patrol along Kaduna-Abuja highway at Sabon Sara had an encounter with armed bandits, who were on their nefarious mission along the busy highway.

"The marauding armed bandits were intercepted at the above-mentioned point, where exchange of

Police neutralize bandit, recover AK-47

fire ensued as a result of which the friendly forces succeeded in truncating the bandits' mission, forcing them to retreat into the forest, as one bandit was neutralised."

Following the recovery of the rifle and motorcycles, upon search of the area, the operatives moved to ensure the safety of motorists and other road users.

"The Commissioner of Police, Kaduna State,

Yekini Ayoku, assured the officers that their sacrifices towards ensuring public safety would not go unrewarded."

"As it is expected that the injured criminal elements will be hibernating around the nearby communities to access healthcare services, the CP called on the general public to report any person or group nursing gunshot wound to the nearest security formation as he assured them of prompt response at all times," it said.



Ayoku

Police commence investigation on barbaric killing of suspect

From Abbas Shehu Gungura, Bauchi

BAUCHI State Commissioner of Police Umar Mamman Sanda, has said that the Command has kicked off investigation

into the heartless killing of a suspected motorcycle thief set ablaze by youth in Chinade Village of Katagum Local Government Area of the state.

The state police boss made the statement through a press release signed and made available to journalists in Bauchi by SP Ahmed Mohammed Wakil, the Commands spokesman. The commissioner frowned at the action of the irate youths, who instead of taking the suspect to the police for proper investigation and prosecution, mobbed the suspect and therefore ordered for a serious investigation into the barbaric and inhuman

jungle justice meted on the suspect by some irate youth.

Umar Sanda, warned Bauchi State indigenes that the Command under his watch will not allow some retrogressive people in the society to take the laws into their hands by killing suspects for an alleged crime in such a heartless and unlawful manner.

He said that nobody has the right to treat a suspect in such a barbaric manner stressing that it is wrong for anyone to assume the position of a law enforcement agency.

Sanda said that any suspect apprehended in connection with any crime should be immediately handed over to the Police or any law enforcement

agencies saddled with the responsibility of investigating and prosecuting such.

The Commissioner of Police appealed to the public to be calm, as the Police Command is already mopping up those responsible for this gruesome act for possible prosecution. Residents of the area said angry mob attacked a middle-aged man whose identity has not been revealed suspected as a motorcycle thief and set him ablaze.

An eye witness told THE NIGERIA STANDARD that the aggressive youth beat the suspect to a pulp and later set him ablaze, on the allegation of theft of a motorcycle earlier in the day at Hardawa in Misau Local Government Area of the state.

Also, some residents of Chinade told our correspondent that the man had allegedly stolen the motorcycle in Hardawa Market and ran away before he was trailed to Chinade which is not far away from Hardawa but in a different LGA. When he was discovered in Chinade, an alarm was raised which attracted a crowd that later turned into a mob. They seized him and beat him to an unconscious state, Not satisfied with the beating, the mob set him ablaze and watched him burn to death.



Sanda

CITAD conducts 2 day town hall meeting

From ABBAS S. GUNGURA, Bauchi

PARTICIPANTS of the town hall meeting in Bauchi under the tutelage of Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) rose up from their two-day discussions weekend with the resolve to strengthen participation in governance through budgetary and procurement processes of the state.

The participants during the meeting extensively discussed on ways and means they can come together to address issues that have direct bearing with the procurement system of Bauchi State.

The meeting guided by CITAD programme coordinator, Isa Garba and some centre facilitators noted that budget of any state cannot be effectively implemented without a procurement process, hence the need for CSOs to engage segments of government in budgetary process to raise the level of procurement.

Participants while arguing that civil societies are the eyes of the society, observed that the moment common man understand the governance processes, they would fight those in government over their doings, making them to act appropriately and effectively. They also spoke of the need

for the civil societies to fully engage the common man in the grassroots to understand the procurement process with a view to contribute his/her quota in strengthening the procurement process while ensuring value for money, efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and accountability to positively propel governance.

Participants also noted with delight that governments at all levels globally have enacted the laws with Nigeria coming on board to study the procurement process around the year 2000. And subsequently after rigorous research, came the support from the World Bank to ensure the existence of procurement that would guide procurement process in the states of the country.

"This led to the enactment of procurement law in Nigeria in 2007 with Bauchi becoming the first state to domesticate it, though it was then a mere ritual of dancing to the tune of the Federal Government because when CITAD engaged Bauchi State House of Assembly, it came to realise that some social components of the law are only peculiar to the federal government".

The meeting however observed that after drawing the attention of Bauchi State to those flawed components of

the law, came reviews which culminated to the establishment of a bureau as Bauchi State Price Intelligence and Public Procurement Responsibility Unit which is still in existence in the state.

The resolutions of the meeting signed by CITAD workshop facilitators similarly noted with delight that Bauchi is the only state with latest review in 2020 of the Public Procurement Law in the country. And urged other states in the federation to emulate to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the law. The state has therefore the latest reviewed public procurement law in Nigeria.

It however noted with concern that citizens of the state are not fully benefitting from the law, "Even if they were indirectly benefitting from it, they are not participating in ensuring that this law is fully followed in the procurement process of the state".

"This law is to the advantage of the citizens of Bauchi state. Nobody will benefit from this law more than the citizens of the state, as the town hall meeting was held to acquaint participants drawn from civil society organizations (CSOs) and the media about the procurement law".

News

Prophet Essessien's case to start afresh in court

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

The court case nailing one Prophet Moses Essessien, of Garden of Prayer Miracles Ministry located behind Bassa LG of Plateau State for hypnotizing and having carnal knowledge of one Abayomi Adewumi, is set to start afresh in High Court because the Judge handling the case has been transferred.



Justice Mann

It would be recalled that the Police FRI revealed that he was standing trial for allegedly enticing married women, adultery, procuring abortion and criminal intimidation, criminal conspiracy against women. He was the lead Prophet of Mount Zion Miracles Ministry that was later changed to Garden of Prayer Ministry.

He was also alleged to have used some mysterious water and oil on one Abademi's wife and influenced her psyche to believe that he was truly a man of God, leaving her at the mercy of whatever he wished to do with her and family.

According to report, the Prophet has been doing same to so many families and nothing tangible has been done because he was reportedly said to have connections with the Police

and other security agencies and could frustrate any findings about his cruel antecedents.

However, Council to the Complainant, Barr. Ralph A. Monye, disposed that the presiding Judge who was handling the case, Honourable Justice JD Chollom, Esq, has been transferred and a new Judge, Honourable Justice Zakka Dung, has taken the case afresh.

He said, "There is change in

the constitution of the court. The former Judge has been transferred and there is a new Judge who is now there and so, where there is change in the corrum of the court and the matter starts the law. That is to say, it is to start afresh. So, they have to read the charges to them again".

The case has been adjourned to July 21, 2022 for a fresh hearing where the bail granted by the former Judge would be applied and adopted where necessary.

PDP accuses APC of inciting attacks against Nigerians

From Jidauna Yanung, Abuja

The People's Democratic Party, (PDP) has accused the All Progressives Congress (APC) and its presidential candidate, Asiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu of instigating attack on Nigerians, particularly people of the South East region living in Lagos state, to prevent them from collecting their Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs).

The opposition party in a statement by its national publicity Secretary, Debo Ologunagba, the attack by Apc as desperate design to use violence to sabotage free, fair and credible elections in 2023, because the party realized that Nigerians would not vote for its presidential candidate in the election.

But in a swift reaction, the president of the Ohaneze Ndigbo in Lagos, Chief Solomon Ageune debunked the rumor that the Igbo are under attack in Lagos.

According to him, there is nothing like that attack saying that what appeared to have caused the rumour was the problem arising from the collection of voters cards.

The leader of the Igbo in Lagos, however, appealed to the Governor of Lagos state, Babajide Sanwo to intervene in the matter so that Igbo in OjoIkotun and some other suburbs in Lagos can get their cards without stress at INEC registration centres.

Peoples Democratic Party in the statement noted that Tinubu has been in morbid fear of the soaring popularity of the presidential candidate, Atiku Abubakar hence the attempt by the APC to stop Nigerians from obtaining their PVCs to vote in the elections.

The PDP warned that such attack portends serious threat and danger to the nation's democratic process.

The Igbo leader on his

own part noted that in their last meetings, they have resolved to among others, endorsed Governor Sanwo-Olu for the second term and it was only through the acquisition of PVCs that Igbo in Lagos can massively vote for the All Progressives Congress (APC).

Ohanaeze explained that the Igbo ethnic nationality was not in contention with any tribe, saying that the Igbo in the state have enjoyed the harmony, cordial and friendliness that have existed between other ethnic nationalities in Lagos.

Former commissioner kidnapped in Adamawa

From GYANG PAM, Yola

A former Commissioner for Housing and Urban Planning during the past administration of Governor Muhammadu Jibrilla Bindo, Engineer Babangida was in the early hours of Tuesday kidnapped by alleged kidnappers.

Reports have it that the criminals had surrounded the home of the victim situated at Bajabure village in Girei Local Government Area of Adamawa State where they shot him on the foot and equally killing one and injuring several others before making away with the victim.

The whereabouts of the victim is yet to be known as at the time of filing this

report.

A family member told our correspondent that there is yet to be any contact from the abductors.

"What is now worrisome was also an attack recently during the last APC primaries where the victim escaped an attack by yet to be identified persons who ended up smashing the victims windscreen", says the family member.

Confirming the story, Police Command spokesman, SP Suleiman Nguroje said they have gotten the report. According to the PPRO, measures are being taken to tackle the issue.

Change of Name

<p>MARCHAP</p> <p>I, formerly known as MANCHAP CHANGKUR JUDAH, now wish to be known and addressed as MARCHAP CHANGKUR JUDAH. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>GABRIEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as LEYITNAAN HOSEA PONPO, now wish to be known and addressed as GABRIEL SUCCESS HOSEA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>DALYOP</p> <p>I, formerly known as PATIENCE EMMANUEL DAVOU, now wish to be known and addressed as DALYOP PATIENCE NERAT. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>
<p>KATDI</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAKAT ISHAKU KWAPSHAK and DAKAT ISHAKU KWAMSHAK, now wish to be known and addressed as KATDI ISHAKU KWAMSHAK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>DAMANG</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAMANG HELEN, now wish to be known and addressed as DAMANG HELEN AN'AMANA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>DANIYAK</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAKTU DYELMUN POKYCARP, now wish to be known and addressed as DANIYAK DYELMUN POLYCARP. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>
<p>MUSA</p> <p>I, formerly known as ADAMU MUSA DANTALA, now wish to be known and addressed as MUSA DANJUMA ADAMU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>MRS. ZUBAIDA</p> <p>I, formerly known as MISS ZUBAIDA IBRAHIM IDREES, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. ZUBAIDA IBRAHIM IDREES. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>SPACE FOR SALE</p>
<p>SPACE FOR SALE</p>	<p>SPACE FOR SALE</p>	<p>SPACE FOR SALE</p>



Plateau State Polytechnic, Barkin Ladi

Applications are invited from suitable qualified candidates and the general public for the vacant post of the Polytechnic Librarian.

- THE INSTITUTION:**

The Plateau State Polytechnic, Barkin Ladi was established in 1978 by Edict No. 2 of the same year. It was amended by Edict No. 4 of 1982. The Institution was established in order to train middle and high level manpower for the technological development of the country. The Institution runs full time programmes in both National Diploma and Higher National Diploma levels. The Polytechnic also has a School of Technical Education where Technical and Technology Teacher are trained. All the full time ND, NCE (Technical) and HND programmes are accredited by the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) and National Commission for Colleges of Education.
- THE POLYTECHNIC LIBRARIAN (CONSOLIDATED):**

 - Appointment to the position of Polytechnic Librarian is by tenure to be preceded by internal and external advertisement. Candidates must have the following requirements:
 - By direct appointment of a candidate possessing PHD with at least 15 years qualification cognate experience or MLS with 18 years post qualification cognate experience with evidence of registration with professional Library body.
 - Evidence of Journal publication, Seminar/Conference papers, Local and journal and 21 conference papers, or five chapters in a standard text(s) and two text books.
 - Evidence of community service/knowledge of computer.
 - The appointment is for period of (5) years only.
- METHOD OF APPLICATION:**

The applicants are to attach to their applications Twenty (20) typewritten copies of Curriculum Vitae, giving details in the following order:

 - Full names with Surname underlined
 - Date and place of Birth
 - State of Origin/Local Government
 - Nationality
 - Marital status
 - Number of and age of children
 - Current postal address including telephone No. and Email address
 - Educational Institutions attended with dates
 - Academic/Professional qualifications obtained with dates
 - Membership of Professional Bodies/Associations
 - Academic/Scholarly publications (in Stranded format)
 - Previous honors and distinction (if any)
 - Previous/Present employment status and salary
 - A statement of his or her own vision for the Polytechnic in the 21st Century
 - Names and addresses of three (3) referees who are to forward confidential report on them, directly to the Registrar. Such referees should be able to attest to the candidate's claims of academic/managerial capabilities as well as their characters.

Invited applicants must be ready to support every claim with documentary evidence (where applicable) and bring the originals of all their credentials to the interview. Twenty (20) copies of applications are to be submitted in sealed envelopes to reach:

**The Registrar,
Plateau State Polytechnic, Barkin Ladi,
P. M. B. 02023,
Bukuru.**

Not later than six (6) weeks from the date of this publication

**DATOM, GRACE L. (MRS)
REGISTRAR**

Note: Only shortlisted candidates would be invited for interview.

Party conventions and delegates problems



By FRANCISCA ADIDI

THE problem of Nigeria and the people of Nigeria is that we are people that love suffering and smiling according to late legend Fela, but let us select the best by the grace of God come 2023, God will do His will. Some aspirants stepped down for other aspirants who couldn't even stepped down from the staircase while hands are shaking. What have the rest of Nigerians do to deserve this from the delegates and some of the contestants? What is the problem with Nigerians? Do we want a repeat of YarAdua and

Goodluck Jonathan? The question is, where did Prof Osinbajo, Amaechi, Wike and other stronger contestants go wrong that those delegates preferred to sell the future of our children for a piece of meal like Esau.? Do we want to be producing old and recycled people instead of strong and capable Nigerians who have greater strength and ideas to run this country? What really is the problem of Nigerians? Do we prefer to go the wrong way even when we are already in trouble and there is still more danger looming our way? It seems money factor appears to be the motivation in the politics of our time. Just like in the words of Osinbajo to the delegates, "when you vote, know that your vote carries the answer to your prayers for our country and its future".

According to Martin Luther King "we need leaders not in love with money but in love with justice. Not in love with publicity but in love with humanity." Nigeria is already going down because of the too many problems, that is the reason why we needed a younger stronger leader who would help fix or bring the country back on its feet again. No wonder Peter Obi in his words said "I am not desperate to become a president, I am desperate to see Nigeria

becomes better ". That is the spirit that Nigerians want and need at the moment and not desperate contestants who want to become president because they feel they have structures on ground and feel it is their turn to be. "There is God oh" in the words of Patience Goodluck Jonathan. While Nigerians are busy struggling to get their PVC to enable them vote the leaders of their choice, the wrong people are busy winning elections which will bring more hardship on our children. Nigeria has become master of producing old people for President. Many other nations will be wondering what is wrong with the country.

Can someone like Tinubu be able to withstand the pressure of Nigeria, should he emerge winner? That was how YarAdua was brought up to rule and the pressure of the country jammed his health challenge and removed him out of office. How long will old people give way to the youths to take over the political arena? Nigerians should not allow politicians to have it all their way because there are lots of issues on ground that are unattended to because of politicking.

It is expected that the incoming leadership should be able to tackle the ASSU strike and the unattended issues of



kidnappings, banditry, herdsmen and the lack of job opportunity for the youth of Nigeria. The arbitrary killings across the country are not new to the government of Nigeria in which every Nigerian knows where the problem is. Likewise, the Nigeria's government knows exactly where the problems of Nigeria is. God is just giving us long rope. Greed and selfishness have characterized the Nigeria's political atmosphere, that is why the stronger people are giving way for older people to become our leaders.

If not, would it have been wise for Tinubu who sees himself as the father of APC and has produced more than two governors of Lagos State to contest for leadership position with one of those he claimed to have put in power? In the same vein, it is the same greed and selfishness that pushed Atiku into contest this time when Buhari is about rounding up. Everyone in Nigeria knows that there is power rotation in Nigeria yet the PDP

refused to observe that, leaving it open for every region to the contest. There is God oh. Rotational leadership is key in Nigeria. Also, Nigeria has two major religions and it is only proper that a Christian president would have emerged since after OBJ, it was YarAdua, then Goodluck Jonathan, and now Buhari. Yet Atiku came out and unfortunately the Christian candidates stepped down for Tinubu instead of their fellow Christian. Very unfortunate.

However, the APC and PDP primary elections have come and gone. The delegates who were our representatives have made a choice for us by voting persons they considered fit and proper for the offices available and with their pockets loaded. However, whether they have made the right choice or not, what is important in democracy is that every election contest must produce a winner and a loser. We surrender the rest to God.

As Nigerian youth become irrelevant



By IBRAHIM T. LOT

NIGERIA'S democratic journey which culminated in the fourth Republic on May 29, 1999, started amidst great hope and expectations. Although the Military regime that mid-wived the process could not significantly convince Nigerians on its success, a huge section of the populace still believe it could herald the dawn of good governance in the country.

Over two decades after democratization in Nigeria, the political landscape is yet to show clear evidences of good governance. The rule of law is merely pronounced, elections and electoral processes are subverted while political parties and other important public institutions are still manipulated in favor of the privileged few.

Nigeria's poor socio-economic performance, human rights abuses, wide spread poverty, insecurity, corruption and lack of trust have led to disenchantment amongst the electorate, especially the youth who feel it was high time the old horses

retire and give them a chance.

The effect from this disenchantment can affect the turn out of the 2023 elections. It can motivate high turn-out in which people demand better governance or lead to apathy and low turn-out. Dr. Kenneth Okonkwo wrote in The Sun newspaper that during the build up to the 2023 presidential elections, General Ibrahim Babangida made it clear that he will prefer younger people in Nigeria to take up the mantle of leadership than any of the elderly presented by the two major political parties.

He buttressed his point by stating that Babangida specifically put the age of future presidential aspirants to be sixty or below.

President Muhammadu Buhari, himself, being an aged president, during the signing of the Not-too-Young-to-Run Bill, pleaded with the younger generation to allow him complete his second term in 2019 and appear in 2023.

At the end of the day, it was the younger men that were prevailed upon to step down for the oldest aspirant in PDP, Atiku Abubakar, and in the APC, it was the younger men that were prevailed upon to step down for the oldest aspirant, Bola Tinubu. Peter Obi, fled to the Labour party where he got a soft landing and got the presidential ticket for the party.

In June 2022, youth from across the nation converged in Kaduna under the aegis of Nigeria youth Collective Action to deliberate on the 2023 presidential elections and vowed never to vote for any

presidential candidate above 55 years old.

Same year, the Nigeria Youth Union said, come 2023, they will only support candidates who are below 60 years of age.

The group said aspiring president should be prepared to show by his antecedents how far he has reflected or factored youths in his leadership vision and accomplishments. However, before his re-election, precisely June 2018, President Buhari pleaded with the Nigerian youths to wait till 2023 before they can contest for the number one seat. This was when he signed the Not Too youth To Run Bill.

Prior to that was the agitation by the youths that old leaders should pave way for them after president Buhari. Tinubu in a viral video said, he wants the youth to be president of Nigeria but that will happen after he has served as president which is his lifelong aspiration. So, why is it so difficult for a youth to be president of Nigeria? Firstly, it is politically naïve to ignore the fundamental differences between the Nigerian political system and the political system in western nations where we have the Macrons, the Borics, the Marins, and a host of others.

We must acknowledge that to win any sort of election in Nigeria, you have to possess financial and political capital in abundance. The former is so important that it can buy you the later, and the later is so important that it attracts the former.

The clamour for a young president is all motion and no movement and it resonates from

social media where we have a lot of activists but not a lot of voters. The painful pill to swallow is that for a leader to emerge victorious in Nigeria, he/she must have spent significant time in the corridors of power.

Obasanjo was once Head of State before becoming a democratic President, Ya'Adua was once governor of Katsina, Goodluck Jonathan has been Governor and a Vice President before his emergence as president and Buhari has attempted to run for president several times after his stint as head of state in 1983. These are the precedents before young people.

The truth of it also is that the credibility of the youths has dwindled over the years to the advantage of the older politicians.

A former Presidential Candidate of the African Action Congress (AAC), Omoyele Sowore, expressed his ill feelings at what currently obtains as opposed to the struggle for the country's independence which the youth at that time fought for and went on to serve in high positions at tender age.

"What I am driving at is that young people have made themselves so irrelevant that they keep pushing them to the fingers to do dirty jobs. Today, now, in the north, you have those who are carrying machetes for politicians, we have the area boys in Lagos.

"You had people like Kanu, not Nnamdi Kanu, yearning for Abacha to become president in

the 90s and totally, youths were eviscerated from the political scene likely because of their own making because, over time since the 60s, young people have continued to deploy themselves to the service of old people who have nothing to offer", he explained.

No denying the fact that what we have now are young people who are mostly hungry, not for relevance or power, but for picking up crumbs from the table of people who sometimes are not even as intelligent as they are.

Nigeria has never lacked quantity of youth participation in politics but quality. They have not really been in positions that matter in governance despite forming the highest number of voters in election exercises over the years.

Youths who desire to change the narrative should join active politics and don't come out to translate their anger into something that can be negotiated with

The recent protests by young Nigerians against police brutality, the EndSARS protests, showed there is unity among the youth who came out to expose the gross human rights abuses by many Nigerians at the helm of the institutions created to protect them. The same anger, not literarily, should be able to divert the political scene.

The race starts now for the youth. Not for 2023 or even probably 2027, but the future. By then, the youths clamouring for elder politicians to occupy these position will also be facing the same opposition from the younger generation.

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

IT is one thing to identify a problem and another thing to passionately sacrifice to finding solution to the problem. It also takes a genuine philanthropist who feels the pains of others to begin to see from a distance where the problem is coming from.

Such people are hardly found in our communities these days especially those coming from the Public Sector. All that we always have are politicians and those who "sacrifice" for political gains, but it is quite different here with Miskoom Henry Kwotoe Langkwap (Shinbuu Longkwo).

This is a man who has served government meritoriously for 35 years and rose to the peak of his career and retired as a Permanent Secretary. He has decided to give back to his community. It was not as if he has it full to the brim of his basket or the richest man in Kwande, but it was purely his desire to contribute even while not in service which was the driving force behind this benevolence.

When the thought of giving back to his community came knocking, Miskoom Langkwap consulted his friends who wanted to write a book in his honour for his emmence contributions which later snowballed into the decision of remodeling the dilapidated Magistrate Court of Kwande in Quaan-Pan Local Government Area of Plateau State.

This started to the surprise of many like a child's play as they watched him developed the project from stage to stage to its completion. Some thought it was government contract as they always believe, but the news later trail the airwaves to the day of commissioning.

It may interest you to know that, Langkwap did not just remodeled the building but totally overhauled the Magistrate Court right from foundation to the roof level, because the Court was completely destroyed by rain storm and was left with nothing standing.

Miskoom Henry Langkwap, did not only erect the structure or expand the capacity of the court, but also equipped the court with modern facilities that cannot be compared or found in any of the High Courts in the state. In fact, it is quite amazing that an individual would pick up such a project and see to the end of it.

There is no gain denying the fact that, the project had gulped Millions of Naira because looking at the quality of work and the size of work done, it will attest to the fact that over four to ten million naira was expended on this project.

The sitting capacity was expanded, it has modern doors, modern windows and the quality of the chairs were also something else. As it this now, the court can sit at the same time in two separate courts under the same roof, because the building has two sites that can be used for Court proceedings.

No wonder, the Longkwo, Miskoom Fidelia Attahiru the first, could not hide his joy when the Plateau State Chief Judge, Honourable Justice David Mann came to commission the project. He was glaringly seen celebrating

one of his sons who has proven beyond reasonable doubt that he was truly the son of the soil more so that, it coincided with his one year in office.

This selfless man even as public servant and without recourse to bother about the hard times we are in has, within his little resources, saw the need for him to bring back justice closer to his people because over the years, he has watched his people struggled to travel as far as twenty kilometers in pursue of justice because of the collapsed

earlier made by the Permanent Secretary for the fencing and posting of staff to the community.

However, the Philanthropist, Miskoom Henry Kwotoe Lankwap, said, "the decision to embark on this project came up in 2021 preparatory to my retirement, when some friends thought out the idea of engaging someone to compile and produce a book on my stewardship and wealth of experience while serving as Permanent Secretary, Local Government Service Commission for the benefit of the society."



Lankwap remodel Kwande Magistrate Court



Magistrate Court in the community.

The Plateau State Chief Judge, Justice David Mann, who inspected the completed project before commissioning, said he was elated because he was the first Chief Magistrate from 1986 to 1988 and he knew how the structure was before now and commended Miskoom Lankwap for this great sacrifice to the course of justice.

He prayed God to continue to protect him and give him the wisdom to do more to the society and promised to grant requests

"Based on this, the blown off Magistrate Court which was damaged beyond human habitation was identified and a letter was put forward to the Chief Judge of Plateau State on October 26, 2021 seeking approval for its renovation. His Lordship, Justice Yakubu Gyang Dakwak, the former Chief Judge granted permission without hesitation on the 29th October, 2021.

"My Lord, as you commission this Court today, we solicit for the immediate posting of a Magistrate and other relevant

staff to kick-start business and forestall further hardship suffered by our people. We appeal to the Plateau State Government to assist us in the following areas: "Fencing of the Court premises to provide adequate security within its premises, provision of solar powered lighting and borehole for a conducive working environment for the Magistrate and Staff, solicit that the recruitment of supporting staff should take cognisance of our people to give us a sense of belonging and ownership of the facility as well as consider and

renovate the dilapidated Area Court That is also in bad shape", he enthused.

The occasion witnessed personalities from far and near as they were ushered in by the Central Planning Committee Chairman, Kurgui Mairiga Baamshal. Other dignitaries include: NBA Chairman Shendam Branch, Barr. Vincent Orifunmishie, Chief Registrar Plateau State High Court, Barr. (Mrs) Ladi Madaki, pouring accolades on Miskoom Lankwap amidst cheers and cultural dance display respectively.

IMAGES

GOV LALONG SWEARS IN JUDGES, KHADI

Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governors Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong on Monday swore-in 4 Judges and Khadi for the Shariah Court at the Victoria Gowon Auditorium, new Government House Rayfield, Jos



Governor Simon Bako Lalong delivering his speech at the swearing in ceremony



A cross section of the newly sworn-in Justices and Khadi listening attentively to the Governor's speech



Speaker, PLHA, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Sanda (left) with the Chief Judge, Justice David Mann at the ceremony



Deputy Governor, Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden (right) flanked by APC Chairman, Hon. Rufus Bature, Prof. Danladi Abok Atu, SGS, Hon. Noel Dongjur, CoS and Engr. Sunday Chong Hyat mni, Head of Service at the ceremony



Chief GS Pwul, SAN (right) with SS Obende, SAN and NBA, Jos Branch Chairman, Barr. Yakubu Bawa (left)



Dr. Boniface Gwotbit, KSM, GM, PPC (left) with Hon. Pam Dongs, former, Commissioner of Works at the swearing in ceremony of judges and khadi



His Royal Highness, Emir of Kanam, Alhaji Dr. Muhammad Babangida Mu'azu (left) with Alhaji Salihu Idris Kwando, Deputy Chief of Staff (Gen. Admin), Government House Jos



Governor Lalong, his Deputy, Prof. Tyoden, SGS, Prof. Atu in a group photograph with the newly sworn-in Justices and Khadi after the ceremony

Photos: DANLADI DUK

Odd World

'Aliens abduct me in my sleep'

A woman who believes aliens have repeatedly abducted her in her sleep say they've left her with "weird bruises and punctures" in her skin.

Maria Leiva, 51, claims the abductions have been going on for as long as she can remember and she's come into contact with heavy-handed extraterrestrials numerous times.

The mum, from Ramsgate, Kent, says she often wakes up to find bruises or finger marks on her body which she's certain are evidence of an extra-terrestrial visit.

Maria, a support worker, says she sometimes wakes up in locations far away from her house with no idea how she got there - and once even had to get a taxi home.

Maria Leiva said that has repeatedly been abducted in her sleep

Maria said: "For as long as I can remember I have had these encounters, the earliest memories were from when I was around four-years-old and I knew it was happening.

"I remember being sad at night and going out onto the terrace at my family home in Columbia and crying out to the stars. I would ask them why they left me here and I would tell them I wanted to go back home.

"I have always been able to see things in the sky, as well as actually seeing beings as well.

"I am sometimes awakened by telepathic communications between the hours of two and four in the morning, being told to wake up and go to the window as something is out there. Sometimes I can record videos of what is out there, but sometimes I can only take photos.

"I don't have any control over when it happens, but in the past two weeks I have seen two flying objects in the sky, up to three times in one night.

"There can also be quiet patches where there isn't much happening, but they communicate with me through my dreams and I will then know when they are visiting.

"When they visit, they will leave me with weird bruises on my body.

"I would wake up with marks on my body, bruises, finger marks, punctures in my skin and cuts as well, and this is how I'd know something had happened in the night.

"My daughter also has these experiences and she has for her whole life, but we never really speak about it with people.

"She believes she can see them too, seeing her first UFO when she was ten. We were living in Hackney and it was one morning when I was taking her to school she looked into the sky and could see the shape of a UFO in the sky, she has now seen several since.

"At the beginning, when I was younger, I wasn't sharing much of what I was experiencing as these aren't things you'd talk about much and if I shared it people would think I was crazy.

"As I got older I started to share little parts of what was happening with friends but I didn't want to scare people.

"My parents knew what was happening but it was something that would never be spoken about.

"There was one particular time in Columbia at my parents' house where one night I was taken in my sleep and I woke up in a completely different place and I was left quite far away.

"I had to get a taxi home, and I didn't even have my house keys so I had to knock on the door. My dad answered and he was so puzzled as to what had happened and why I had left and was only just coming home."

Maria has had unusual alien encounters for as long as she can remember, and being taken in the night, communicating through her dreams. Because of this, Maria has been heavily involved in the UFO community her whole life.

Maria adds: "I enjoy going to conferences around the world for E.T and flying saucers, I speak to people who have experienced the same things as me such as seeing UFO's and aliens.

"I have also seen aliens as well. I saw them in Barcelona when I was living there in the mountains.

Source: The Mirror.



As our woes, sufferings continue

THE past few weeks have been full of communities and societies can integrate anxiety and unpalatable discourse with the sole aim of moving us forward. Their desire was to have a nation where our differences would be sought out for the betterment of us all.

Unfortunately, several decades after our independence, Nigeria for the greater fault of our greedy elites have wasted our opportunity towards creating an enabling environment for greater prospects. They have not only squandered our resources and denied us of helping ourselves, they are ensuring on leaving behind a nation in ruins if care is not taken

I have taken time to witness the recent party primaries in the country which left much to be desired in all its ramifications. At some intervals, I was able to see the huge amount of monies exchanging hands even as our delegates excised their franchise. Just imagine the so-called best candidates they have endorsed for us to entrust the future of our country in their hands.

When Nigeria returned to democratic governance in 1999, those who witnessed this epoch-making event had high hopes for the nation. Following many years of military tyranny and open unapologetic display of callousness, the citizens of the nation had high hopes that a new era had come.

In the past few decades, our democratic experimentation has not turned out as anticipated. Of course, no nation of the world practicing this system of government has continued to succeed without any significant challenges. Therefore, our experience cannot and or may not be different from the obvious.

In contemporary times, many Afrocentric scholars have opined that though our democratic journey cannot be compared with an advanced nation of the world like the United States of America, we must also take into consideration, the sacrifices made both by the leaders and followers of this great nation which has propelled them to where they are today. Unarguably, More pitiable is our education sector with over two hundred years of uninterrupted democratic system of governance, American is one nation which can rightfully boast of crossing many rivers and beating all odds to stabilize its polity. Though one cannot conclude that it is all well, even as the nation continue to battle the issues of racism, gun violence and other avoidable acts of economic dislocation and system failure this country has remained on the side of progress.

One thing for sure however is that in the midst of these challenges, America has not lost its focus but remained resolute on the initial pragmatic philosophy of the nation's founding fathers. This gesture is reflected on each and every American who knows the value of dying for his or her country.

Interestingly, in the aftermath of the liberation of Nigeria from shackles of colonial subjugation, our founding fathers had a well cut out reliable ideology for this nation. Though many historians can also submit with unshakable evidences that the emergence of this country was a marriage of inconvenience, the general consensus of our nationalists then was to build a corporate nation where our multifaceted and heterogeneous

like this, we must not please. Nigeria narrowly survived recessions leaving behind tales of woes on its people. To say the least, one does not need to seek the services of a seeker comprehended the reality of the fact that Nigeria is sick. For those who care to know, our country is in the intensive healthcare unit with little chance of surviving. Aside the issue of insecurity as a result of activities of insurgents, bandits, armed robbers and kidnappers, our educational sector has completely failed not forgetting the elliptic healthcare system in the country.

Though since the advent of the present democratic dispensation, Nigeria has continued to lose hundreds of thousands of its citizens, the killing of innocent women and children in cool blood by blood thirsty marauders in Owo is an unspeakable act of inhumanity ever imagined in most recent times. The bottom line in all this development is that we cannot continue

Feature

SP Ayuba: Manning Rantya Police Divisional Office with integrity

Since the incumbent Rantya Divisional Police Officer, (DPO) Superintendent of Police, SP Iliya Akawu Ayuba assumed office, the entire area has changed for the better in terms of ensuring appreciable level of security improvement. Thus, many corporate organizations and spirited individuals have continued to attest to the obvious fact that Rantya which is situated in Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State and previously known for notorious activities is not experiencing narratives of the past. Write Bulus Gambo.

THE Plateau State Commissioner of Police, CP Bartholomew N. Onyeka must however be commended for his vision and wisdom through the deployment of competent officers in the likes of SP Ayuba to man this once complicated Division. Indeed, the Plateau State Commissioner of Police has since his assumption of office on the Plateau also ensured that only competent men and women of honor are always shouldered with policing responsibilities in the state. This deliberate efforts of his has continued to bring forth tremendous and well appreciated results even as the state is becoming hotter for criminally minded elements to reside.

Before the assumption of office of Superintendent of Police, Iliya Ayuba at the Rantya Divisional Office the area was among the most worrisome black spots in Jos South. Though most of the area is cosmopolitan, the unabated infiltration of criminals from neighboring communities had become a source of worry and concern to many residents. Most disturbing was the ugly incidences of criminality recorded at the Wildlife Park and Dong village where hoodlums were operating freely.

In the Wildlife Park area, many criminal cases of phone snatching at gunpoint, criminal intimidation, public disturbance, unpleasant scenarios of attempted rape including other forms of public molestation were significantly reoccurring in the past. Beyond this were several dastard acts of kidnappings for ransom, herder/farmer conflicts and other gruesome acts of inhumanity perpetrated with impunity.

It was in the midst of these unpleasant circumstances that the present DPO of the Division was posted there. Though it was a herculean task facing all these challenges, the experiences of this committed Police officer was all that was needed to ensure success towards curbing the menace of such an overwhelming act of criminality threatening the peaceful coexistence of the residents of the area. When SP Ayuba was posted there, not many people gave him any chance of achieving this desired impact. In fact, some cynics regarded him as a green horn who was not yet well nurtured and experienced to handle such a complex operational obligation.

For yours sincerely, the doggedness of the DPO is unquestionable by every standard if his past experiences are anything to go by. This is also as a result of his antecedents when he was the Divisional Crime Officer, (DCO) at the Nassarawa Gwong Jos Police Division. Under the tutelage of the renowned dogged and excellent current Divisional Police Officer, (DPO) of the area, SP Musa Hassan, SP Ayuba was



SP Ayuba receiving a commendation letter from the Plateau State Commissioner of Police, CP Bartholomew Onyeka

able to understand and subsequently learn contemporary intrigues of policing even in harden situations and areas. SP Musa, who was SP Ayuba's boss then taught him and many other policemen under him to avoid bribe-taking and be professional while conducting any operation and or investigation. It was also in the character of SP Musa's professional ideology that officers and men of the police must carry along in their routine duties their communities in order to achieve huge success.

During their several operations in Nassarawa Gwong Division, both officers recorded remarkable results rescuing many kidnapped victims and restoring order in the area. These positive results necessitated the leaders of thoughts and community stakeholders to write a letter to the then Plateau State Commissioner of Police CP Edward Ebuka to base on merit retain DPO SP Musa Hassan and his team at the Division which was immediately granted. At that time, DPO's had all been placed on transfer across the state.

When the time came for SP Iliya Ayuba to leave for Rantya Division however, the foundation had already been laid with assurances that he was going to continue his good works anywhere he finds himself. Lucky enough, SP Ayuba was posted as DPO close to the same local government area where his former boss commands full respect and admiration. After all these complex operational activities, it was time for SP Ayuba to exhibit the technical skills he had acquired during his stay at Nassarawa Gwong Division and this will only happen if he decides to carry the

residents of the area along.

On assumption of office, the Rantya Divisional Police Officer, (DPO) in his new place of assignment quickly held a meeting with various stakeholders in the community so as to bring them up to speed with strategies of collaborative mechanism for effective contemporary urban policing. This gesture further created significant understanding, harmonious relationship and synergy between his men and the members of the community.

Within the shortest possible time thereafter, the area began to witness significant difference for the first time after several years of trying to restore law and order. Under the watchful eyes of SP Ayuba, his men embarked on combing brushes and also synergized with the leadership of the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists led by Mrs. Jennifer Yarima toward ensuring the protection of the rights of the vulnerable. Breakthroughs were achieved in several operations leading to the arrest of many harden criminals, kidnappers and violators of human rights within his jurisdiction.

In appreciation of SP Ayuba's achievements, the Chairman of Jos South Local Government Area, Hon. Amb. Gideon D. Davou wrote a letter of commendation acknowledging his splendid efforts towards sanitizing his area of criminal elements terrorizing innocent citizens. In the letter dated 25th February, 2022, Hon Davou noted that "on behalf of the Executive Chairman, Legislative Arm, Traditional Council, Management, Staff and the entire peace-loving people of Jos South Local Government Area, I Amb. Gideon D. Davou wish to

commend and appreciate you for the leadership qualities you have exhibited within the short period of your deployment to the area."

According to the Chairman of the council, "You have proven to be committed and an experienced security personnel with a lot of intelligence, tactics and prompt response to issues especially distress calls. This has led you to amongst other things arrest kidnappers and other criminals thereby reducing criminal activities in the area." "You are by this letter requested to sustain momentum and continue to synthesize with other security personnel for crime free and peaceful Jos South Local Government Area." The letter added.

In like manner, many other organizations and well spirited individuals have continued to appreciate the good works of the DPO of the Rantya Division. In its commendation, the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists, Plateau State chapter Chairman, Mrs. Jennifer Yarima explained that the association was not surprised over the achievements so far recorded by the DPO following his good track records.

The NAWOJ Chairman explained that SP Iliya Ayuba and his former boss at the Nassarawa Police Division, SP Musa Hassan have both continued to give the Plateau State Police Command a good image to be reckoned with adding that "in the past few years, both DPOs through their professional handling of issues and investigations not forgetting cordial working relationship with communities have earned a good name for themselves.

Just recently, the Northern Youth Parliament of Nigeria, (NYPN) also appreciative of the

role played by SP Ayuba subsequently considered him for an award. In their submission, the diligent police officer has during his obligations brought a new contemporary dimension of community policing to the residents of his area. SP Ayuba was conferred with the award of the title of the Icon of Security Development.

According to the group, the platinum leadership award of excellence was conceived by NYPN as a benefitting gesture to honour worthy individuals whose attainment in life have impacted positively in the lives of the citizenry and a way of encouraging them to do more adding that, "today we once more again emblazoned a foremost icon, national and international repute, a man who can inky be termed the solution to the puzzle called leadership distinction.

According to the NYPN, "To the teeming population of Nigerian youth especially of the northern extraction, SP Iliya Habila is not just a mentor and a role model but a personality with integrity and unique hallmark which for a very long time defines the phrase of "a light at the end of the tunnel". He has given so many years of exceptional leadership of building the nation."

The group further commended SP Ayuba noting that "For us as youth, SP Iliya A. Ayuba is the symbol of a true Nigerian where unity and love, integrity and fairness, compassion and brotherhood takes a sit on the table. We are rightly before a man of excellence who has given too much to the empowerment of the youth in our dear country, an indisputable Nigerian flag waver and quintessential gentleman of good leadership whose didactic personality is a pedestal upon which the vision of our land can be realized. We want to assure you sir that the Northern Youth Parliament of Nigeria is strongly in support of you and your activities and shall always stand by you. We want you to keep the ball rolling as our father, role model and mentor of our generation and future generation."

If these encomiums showered on SP Iliya Ayuba are anything to go by, it goes a long way in making a strong statement that the police have stamped its feet and proved bookmakers wrong that it is a friend of the general public. Therefore, the leadership of the police both at the state and federal levels must be commended for doing the needful towards ensuring that only competent men and women are always deployed to handle complex issues with overwhelming success in our society. The police hierarchy on the Plateau really deserve our commendation in this regard.



Inspiring moments at Plapoly convocation 2022

FRIDAY, June 10, 2022 was a day the Plateau State Polytechnic Barkin Ladi community will not forget in a hurry as it witnessed the presence of two Governors, Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State, and Abdulahi Sule of Nassarawa State including many dignitaries who came to attend the institution's 31st - 38th combined virtual convocation ceremony.

The school hall was full to capacity with educational luminaries and stakeholders like traditional rulers, educational enthusiasts, students and well-wishers.

The convocation was for the presentation of certificates of Higher National Diploma's, National Diplomas, Diplomas, Nigeria Certificate in Education (Technical), certificates, conferment of fellowships and academic excellence awards to some personalities.

On that day, when the best graduating students in various categories were coming out to attend the event, little did they know what awaited them till Governor Sule, the Special Guest of Honor opened the floor with an inspiring speech and a donation of one million Naira to

Choji Chollom, overall best student. Then came the flow of a million Naira cash gift donation to many other students in the various classes and categories of awards. The one million Naira cash rain continued flowing with Governor Lalong, His Deputy Sonni Gwanle Tyoden, and other invited guests who also followed the trend by donating one million to the best set of students, as each was announced, attracting applause and cheers from the crowd in the hall.

The best graduating female student in Technical Education/Engineering category and other outstanding females who proved their worth in Engineering, including best students in Engineering got awards of the handsome monetary prize, on that blessed day.

One of the greatest inspiring moments of the event was when Governor Sule walked up to a physically challenged best female student to give the highest donation of N1.5 million Naira to her, for emerging tops despite her challenge.

She was called out to come up and collect her prize like the others. But a humble Sule said No! He rather walked up to her and said "For being the best, despite your challenge, you deserve better than others. Therefore for you, I will give you the sum of N1.5 million Naira, much more than the others, because you deserve more than them". Cheers and applause filled the air and excitement on the faces of the recipients could not be hidden from public glare.

Governor Sule had earlier presented a very nostalgic speech of his younger days living in Plateau State and returning to visit his alma mater over 40 years after.

He recalled his patronage of the famous Funa Bread Bakery in Bukuru, Scala Cinema, and other recreational social activities which Jos was famously known for in the past. He however hampered on the need for peaceful coexistence among Nigerians irrespective of religious or ethnic divides for any meaningful development to thrive.

Governor Sule who pleaded to be shown round the technical laboratories and workshops of the institution before taking his leave back to his state, used the forum to openly praise the former Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro for leaving infrastructural landmarks in the Plateau State Polytechnic, and

many other tertiary institutions, not only in Plateau but in his state, Nassarawa and other parts of the country.

He said "Don't think it is only in Plateau that Bogoro has worked to put these structures. I describe Bogoro as a good man that Nigeria needs because he has also built similar educational edifices in Nasarawa State and has done same in all parts of the country".

The Pioneer founder of the institution, Air Commodore Dan Suleiman Rtd. was equally praised by various speakers including the Rector of the Polytechnic, Bldr. John Datogoem Dawam for initiating the institution in 1978 with pioneer students attending lectures at West of Mines, Jos and later in Bukuru Technical School. However in 1980, the Polytechnic was started by late elder statesman Solomon Daushep Lar, eventually leading to opening of the campus at Barkin Ladi.

Governor Lalong in his speech said the backlog of convocations was long overdue and had sadly affected many graduands who would have made progress by securing jobs or admissions to other institutions to further their education.

Lalong who was Visitor and among the awardees of the Special Polytechnic fellowship reminded the Master of Ceremony that he had left an important part of his citation by forgetting that his wife and First Lady of the state had also graduated from the polytechnic.

Lalong appreciated Governor Sule for honouring the invitation to attend the event despite the short notice and commended the cordial relationship Plateau and Nassarawa State share. He recalled how he did his A Level in Nassarawa State saying it's an exchange programme between himself and Governor Sule who also did his a level and secondary school in Plateau. "So while Sule had come to Bukuru Technical School to study, I had also gone to the School of Preliminary Studies Keffi to study. So you see, we did an exchange programme".

"Therefore you are a true son of Plateau on loan to Nassarawa State", Lalong said humorously to Sule, appreciating his show of passion to the Polytechnic.

Lalong commissioned an ultra-modern e-Library complex named after Prof. Suleiman Elayas Bogoro, and the twin lecture hall sited in the school premises named after him.

All the projects were built by the TETFund during Prof. Bogoro's tenure. The ultra-modern e-library was built to beat the challenges of Covid-19 and encourage distance e-learning.

Highlights of the 2022 combined convocation was the investiture of the institutions fellowships which was given to Governor Lalong, Minister for Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen, Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives, Rt Hon. Idris Ahmed Wase, former TETFund Executive Secretary, Prof. Suleiman Elayas Bogoro, former Minister for Water Resources, Mrs. Sarah Reng Ochekepe, Prof. Stephen Jackdell Mallo, Hon. Simon Mwadkon, and Late Patrick Mallam Dokotri.



News

Owo massacre: Attackers will not know peace -clergy

By PALANG KASMI

THE Reverend in charge of the Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a' Nigeria (EYN) Church LCC Jos, Rev. Joseph Kwaha, has condemned the June 5 massacre of Christians during a church service at St. Francis Catholic Church Owo, Ondo State.

The man of God however stated that the killers will not have peace till they confess and seek for forgiveness for their dastardly act that led to the death of over 50 people with many others injured.

Kwaha was speaking while presenting a sermon at the special inter-denominational Church Service in commemoration of the 2022 Democracy Day celebration, on Sunday June 12, 2022 at the Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a' Nigeria (EYN) Church, opposite Plateau State House of Assembly, Jos.

Plateau Governor, Simon Bako Lalong, Plateau Chief Judge, Justice David Mann, President Customary Court

of Appeal, Justice Blessing Dalyop, Secretary to the Government of the state, Prof. Danladi Atu, Head of Service Engr. Sunday Hyat, government officials, men of God and members of military and Para military agencies attended the service.

The man of God called for one minute silence to be observed in honour of the victims which he said had in tragic circumstances paid the supreme price for no crime they committed.

"They went about their normal duties and went to church last week Sunday to worship their God but for no crime of theirs, they were attacked and killed for going to worship their God".

"The perpetrators of the dastardly act will not know peace till they repent and turn away from their evil ways" he said praying for the repose of their souls.

Rev. Kwaha called for

religious tolerance in the country and appreciated the hospitality of Plateau people and Government for accommodating the Church saying the EYN pioneer members came into Jos as refugees from Gwoza in Borno state and other areas affected by conflict.

He commended the country for sustaining the democratic process but called for justice advising stakeholders, those in power and government to always give justice to all irrespective of class.

"We want and pray for a Nigeria where there will be equal opportunities for everyone in the society, and security for everyone" he said.

General Secretary of TEKAN, Rt. Rev. Moses Ebuga commended the Nigerian Government for celebrating Democracy Day despite security and other daunting challenges affecting the nation.

He appreciated those who sacrificed their lives for the country's stable democracy saying "Despite leadership and security challenges, we

give kudos to leaders who have sustained it and tried in giving citizens the dividends of democracy so that the labour of our heroes past should not be in vain".

He advised leaders that the country can only achieve true democracy by having sincere heart and purpose by treating everyone equally irrespective of religious and ethnic differences.

Ebuga however warned political parties that are thinking of fielding either Christian-Christian ticket or Muslim-Muslim vice presidential tickets to desist from it because it is like drumming drums of war.

He also called on security agencies to arrest religious leaders who are publicly inciting the public with their unguarded utterances.

Plateau CAN Chairman, Fr. Polycarp Lubo in his remarks assured that Christians on the Plateau will keep praying for the state and nation assuring that the Lord will take charge of affairs at the appointed time and bring peace to the country.

The CAN Chairman challenged Christians to go and get their Permanent Voters Cards.

Don to APC, put house in order

By IBRAHIM SULEIMAN INGAWA, Katsina

A don with Umaru Musa Yar'Adua University, (UMYU), Katsina has urged All Progressive Congress (APC) in Katsina State, to address the lingering crises brewing among stakeholders and supporters of the party in the state.

Yandaka stated this while speaking to newsmen in Katsina on Monday.

He said that if that is not done, APC risks losing the 2023 general elections in the state.

The lecturer called on Katsina State Governor Aminu Bello Masari, as leader of the party to urgently intervene to avoid the collapse of the party.

"If the crisis persisted and APC, Katsina Chapter fails to carefully handle the problem,, the party may lose the ,2023 elections in the state.

"Because this is not time for crisis. What is expected is unity among members to face the bigger challenge ahead of them in 2023"

"The opposition parties in the state have presented popular candidates for the

2023 elections. "They are carefully watching to benefit from the crisis in the state", he said.

Yandaka said that it is unfortunate that some APC stakeholders attacked the character of President Muhammadu Buhari and the state Governor, Aminu Masari

"The President, in view of his position and age, deserves to be respected by all party faithfuls and Nigerians at large"

The don who is the Head of Department of Political Science, UMYU, urged APC gubernatorial candidate in the state, Alhaji Umar Dikko Radda to extend hands of love and mutual trust to all those who contested with him in their party and her supporters.

Yandaka said because APC is in serious crises in the state after the primary elections.

According to him, some party chieftains vowed that they will not work with the party gubernatorial candidate, Radda.

Sports

Messi's 10 best performances for Argentina

By DANIEL EDWARDS

THE opposition may not have been the toughest, but Lionel Messi nevertheless gave everything in a stunning performance to destroy Estonia on Sunday.

The Albiceleste smashed five goals against Estonia on Sunday to add another vintage display to his collection in international colours.

All of Argentina's goals in a convincing 5-0 win came via the Paris Saint-Germain wizard, who became just the third player in national team history to hit as many in one match – and the first since Juan Marvezzi all the way back in 1941.

Messi is accustomed to turning it on when he puts on his nation's shirt, but which were his very best games for Argentina? GOAL takes a look through the years to find La Pulga's greatest hits...

10 Argentina 4-0 United States

One of Messi's greatest virtues as a player is that he is not just one of the best in scoring goals, he can also set up his team-mates with ease.

The Copa America Centenario semi-final against hosts United States showed off to perfection those two facets of his game.

Not only did he find the net with an outrageous free-kick effort, he also set up another two goals in a 4-0 rout to send the Albiceleste through to the final.

9 Colombia 1-2 Argentina, November 15, 2011

Qualifying for the World Cup out of the CONMEBOL region, despite Argentina's relatively simple passage this time round, is almost never a straightforward prospect.

In 2011, the Albiceleste had made a distinctly underwhelming start to their campaign, losing for the first time to Venezuela and then dropping points at home to Bolivia. A visit to Colombia followed, and Alejandro Sabella's charges feared the worst when Dorlan Pabon fired the hosts in front just before half-time.

Colombia had been well on top before the break but, led by Messi and helped by some savvy tactical changes on Sabella's part, Argentina came out a different team, levelling through the new national team captain before Sergio Aguero clinched three points seven minutes from time.

Not only did that game put Argentina back on track, but it was also the beginning of Messi, Aguero and Gonzalo Higuain's partnership up front, a potent trident that



would fire them to the brink of World Cup glory within three years.

8 Argentina 3-0 Ecuador, July 3, 2021

More than five years had passed since Messi's last knockout goal for Argentina when Lionel Scaloni's men lined up against Ecuador in the quarter-finals of the Copa America. But while he left it late, the strike truly proved worth the wait.

The Barcelona ace had pulled all the strings for his side throughout the game, playing in both Rodrigo De Paul and Lautaro Martinez for their goals to put Argentina 2-0 ahead. Then, in injury time, it looked as though he would have the chance to add his own when Piero Hincapie appeared to commit a penalty on Angel Di Maria.

A VAR check eventually changed the decision, giving Messi a free-kick on the edge of the box. But it did not change the captain's task much, as he dispatched a glorious effort to notch Argentina's third and round off a brilliant all-round display.

7 Argentina 3-0 Mexico, July 11, 2007

How different might Messi's international career have turned out if he could have kept Juan Roman Riquelme by his side a little longer?

The two iconic No.10s formed a glittering partnership for the few short years between Leo's

emergence and Roman's controversial retirement in 2009 amid rumours of a falling-out with coach Diego Maradona. But they were at least together long enough to give us several unforgettable games.

One of the best was Argentina's Copa America semi-final demolition of Mexico in 2007, as Messi and Riquelme both got on the scoresheet in a dominant 3-0 win.

The then-Barcelona kid netted his side's second of the evening, an outrageous chip that ranks among his very best international goals.

6 Argentina 2-1 Bosnia & Herzegovina, June 15, 2014

While Messi was by no means a disappointment at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, his failure to find the net even once as Argentina reached the quarters was a curious anomaly – one he was desperate to correct once the next finals came around.

In Brazil, therefore, he wasted no time in finding the net during a virtuoso display against Bosnia & Herzegovina in Argentina's very first game. "I'd had to wait eight years for my second World Cup goal. We wanted to have a great tournament and started off with a win against Bosnia, and I scored our second goal," he recalled to Four Four Two.

"It all happened very quickly. I

picked the ball up near the halfway line and tried to burst towards their penalty area. I played a one-two with Gonzalo Higuain and then shot from the edge of the box. Luckily, it all came off."

5 Argentina 6-0 Serbia and Montenegro, June 18, 2006

Messi was still eight days short of his 19th birthday when he made his World Cup bow for Argentina, a side packed to the brim with talent under coach Jose Pekerman.

The Albiceleste were already coasting at 3-0 up when the teenager entered the action for Maxi Rodriguez 75 minutes in, but stepped up a gear to add another three before full-time against Serbia and Montenegro and cap one of their greatest ever World Cup performances.

Their new star needed just three minutes to set up Hernan Crespo, and added his own before the end to make it 6-0 with a cool right-footed finish. "It was a beautiful day due to the significance of the occasion – it was the World Cup and it was Argentina's second match of the tournament," he later told Four Four Two.

"I was on the bench for the first game against Ivory Coast, but came on for the last 15 minutes against Serbia & Montenegro and scored our sixth goal of the game. Beautiful."

4 Argentina 3-2 Nigeria, June 25, 2014

While it is hard to pick a single moment from his incredible career, there is a solid argument to be made that 2014 World Cup Messi was his finest moment.

The star had already netted in victories against Bosnia & Herzegovina and Iran and celebrated his 27th birthday in Brazil when he turned on the magic again for Argentina's final group match.

Nigeria pushed Alejandro Sabella's men hard throughout but just had no answer for Leo, who scored two of his team's goals to send them through to the last 16 with a perfect record of three wins out of three.

3 Argentina 4-3 Brazil, June 9, 2012

In this ranking priority has been given to competitive international matches over friendlies, for obvious

reasons. One of Messi's performances, though, even if it did not come on the biggest stage, cannot be overlooked.

In 2012, New York's MetLife Stadium – packed with 80,000 fans – was treated to a Messi masterclass as Argentina squeezed past Brazil in a 4-3 thriller.

The No. 10 scored three of his side's goals as they downed their arch-rivals, clinching victory with a run from near the halfway line which finished with a wicked long-range shot which gave Selecao goalkeeper Rafael Cabral no chance.

"We're lucky he's Argentine," coach Alejandro Sabella noted after the game, with no little understatement. "We can benefit from that." Quite.

2 Brazil 0-1 Argentina, July 10, 2021

It might not have been his best match in an Argentina shirt but 2021's Copa America victory over Brazil finally ended Messi's wait for international honours, banishing the pain of multiple final defeats.

While Angel Di Maria hit the only goal of the game, once the final whistle blew the entire Albiceleste squad ran to their captain, who broke down in tears of joy and, most likely, pure relief.

Leo had enjoyed a brilliant Copa from the very first game and richly deserved the title, which brought an end to a run of four consecutive losses in tournament deciders.

1 Ecuador 1-3 Argentina, October 10, 2017

It appeared an impossible mission.

Argentina arrived at the last game of their lacklustre 2018 World Cup qualifying campaign needing a win to make Russia, away to Ecuador in the daunting altitude of Quito – and to top it all, the already-eliminated hosts went ahead in the first minute to leave Jorge Sampaoli's men's hopes hanging by a thread.

That is when Messi decided to make his stand.

The captain blasted an unanswered hat-trick to seal a 3-1 win for the Albiceleste in perhaps his most important performance of all at international level, if not his best outright.



Sports



Osimhen promises more goal for Eagles

NIGERIA striker Victor Osimhen has revealed he will not relent from scoring goals for the Super Eagles after he guided the national team to a 10-0 thrashing of Sao Tome and Principe in their 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying fixture on Monday.

Goal said that, the 23-year-old was in great form for the Super Eagles as he guided the team to their second straight victory in Group A at Stade Adrar.

The 23-year-old, who features for Napoli in Serie A, was in incredible form as he scored four goals. Those were in the ninth, 48th, 65th and 84th minutes as the Supers Eagles roared to their second Group A win at Stade Adrar in Morocco.

The other goals for the Jose Peseiro-led side were

notched by Simon Moses in the 28th minute, Terem Moffi, who hit a double, in the 43rd and 60th minutes, Oghenekaro Etebo in the 55th minute, Ademola Lookman in the 62nd minute and Emmanuel Dennis, who rounded up the emphatic win from the penalty spot in the 90th minute.

"First of all, I have to say congratulations to the entire team and also a big kudos to the coach for all the instructions he gave us," Osimhen said after the game as quoted by *Punch*.

"I believe we carried out 80 to 90 per cent of them and of course, I am happy to score four goals and I am happy for my teammates that got their goals as well, their first goals like Ademola Lookman, Terem Moffi, and Emmanuel Dennis. "There is big solidarity in the

team and this is what the coach has taught us. I believe as a group we have the quality to build on this momentum. And yes, I want to score more goals for the team, and of course, keep on getting the wins for the team."

Osimhen continued: "I believe as each game comes by we are going to get three points because it is important in the qualifiers as we don't want to lose any game, and we are working towards it."

The win pushed Nigeria to the top of the group with six points from two matches while Guinea-Bissau, who drew 2-2 against Sierra Leone in another fixture at Stade General Lansana Conte on Monday, are second with four points.

Nigeria will next be at home against Guinea-Bissau on

Osimhen hits four in Falcons demolition

NIGERIA increased their chance of qualifying for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations with a massive 10-0 destruction of Sao Tome and Principe on Monday afternoon.

Goal said that, the Napoli striker was on target on four occasions as the Super Eagles brushed aside the Central African country on Monday afternoon.

Victor Osimhen's four goals, Terem Moffi's brace and goals from Moses Simon, Peter Etebo, Ademola Lookman, and Emmanuel Dennis completed the obliteration at the Stade

Adrar in Morocco. The hosts went into the game aiming to return to winning ways after crumbling 5-1 to Guinea-Bissau in their opening Group A fixture on June 9.

However, it was the Super Eagles who reigned supreme after putting up a commendable attacking showing against the Falcons and True Patriots team.

The West Africans began the match on a bright note by dominating ball possession, however, they were unable to get their rhythm in attack at first.

Nonetheless, they got their act straight when the Napoli

star opened the scoring after heading Simon's cross past goalkeeper Anastacio Braganca nine minutes in.

Osimhen thought he had doubled the Super Eagles' lead in the 21st minute, but referee Osiase Koto ruled that effort out for an offside.

Seven minutes later, Jose Peseiro's side got their second goal after man-of-the-match Osimhen had set up Nantes man Moses from close range.

In the goal-laden first half, Nigeria raced to a three-goal lead two minutes before the half-time break thanks to Moffi's first international effort. After he was set up by

FORMER Nigerian striker Akeem Omolade has passed away in Italy.

Goal said that, Omolade, who was born in Kaduna State, the former political capital of Northern Nigeria, arrived in Italy at the age of 17, joining Treviso, with whom he made his professional debut in Serie B. He subsequently joined Torino, with whom he made his Serie A debut.

Following his departure from Torino, he went on to play in the lower leagues of Italian football. In 2011, he moved to Sicily to join Mazara. In 2012, he played for Ribera 1954 in Serie D, before returning to Mazara in 2013.

In 2014, he went down even further, joining Marsala-based Promozione club Borgata Terrenove. Last season he played with Altofonte in the first Sicilian category.

In 2001, his name became famous when he wore the Treviso shirt. At the time, about 30 Venetian ultras – not new to acts of discrimination – withdrew their banners and left the stadium protesting his signing because they did not like the colour of his skin.

Omolade found dead inside a car in Italy



However, the following day, when Treviso were coming up against Genoa in a league fixture, the players of Treviso including their coach and the entire technical bench, entered the field with their faces painted black, as a sign of solidarity.

Fenerbahce line up Marcelo transfer offer

FENERBAHCE are preparing a contract offer for Brazilian full-back Marcelo, GOAL can confirm.

The 34-year-old's time at the Santiago Bernabeu has come to an end after 15 years and the Super Lig could be his next destination.

The 34-year-old has left Real Madrid, as he confirmed he would leave the Spanish side after the Champions League final victory against Liverpool last month.



Marcelo

Osimhen – who sprinted through Sao Tome's goal area – the France-based striker cut past Ivonaldo before firing past a stranded Braganca.

Despite their commanding lead, the Super Eagles continued their push for more goals and that paid off in the 48th minute with Lookman supplying the last pass for Osimhen's second.

The harvest of goals continued five minutes before the hour mark after England-based Etebo curled home a beautiful free-kick that was unstoppable for the goalie.

Moffi completed his brace five minutes later by poking home a cross from Zaidu Sanusi.

Former England youth international Lookman opened his Nigeria account after capitalising on a mistake by the Sao Tome and Principe goalkeeper before Osimhen wrapped up the game with his third and fourth goals while Dennis netted from the penalty mark to put the cherry on the cake.

Nigeria now lead Group A with six points from two matches, while the Central Africans remain at the base of the log with no points.

The Super Eagles continue their campaign against Guinea-Bissau in September.

Several clubs are interested in landing the legendary player, but a move to Turkey could be on the cards.

The Istanbul club are set to make an official offer to Marcelo in the coming days.

Coach Jorge Jesus has urged the Super Lig team to sign the five-time Champions League winner.

Marcelo is open to continuing his career with the Turkish giants as he wants to play in the Champions League next season, but he is pushing for a salary of around €6 million (£5m/\$6m).

Fenerbahce are not the only team eager to land the former Flamengo star, who spent 15 trophy-filled years at Madrid.

French side Marseille hope to bring him to Ligue 1 as coach Jorge Sampaoli has requested the club try to sign him.

There are also teams in Qatar trying to lure him to the Middle East and interest from Brazil, but Marcelo would rather remain in Europe.

Even though City are within touching distance of a second successive Premier League title achieved without an orthodox centre-forward, Guardiola has always stressed his desire to have one.

City tried hard to get Harry Kane from Tottenham last summer but Spurs chairman Daniel Levy refused to sell.

And, with Kane having two years left on his contract, Haaland is an easier deal to conclude given his release clause.

He has scored 92 league goals in 121 appearances for Molde, Red Bull Salzburg and Dortmund and last year became the youngest player to reach 20 Champions League goals.

Haaland's father Alf-Inge played for City between 2000 and 2003 in a career that also saw him represent Leeds and Nottingham Forest.



Osimhen

Sports



Murray

Murray withdraws from Queen's with abdominal injury

FIVE-time champion Andy Murray has withdrawn from Queen's because of an abdominal strain he picked up in the Stuttgart final on Sunday.

BBC SPORT said that, Murray, 35, had a scan on Monday afternoon in London and has decided to skip the Cinch Championships after it revealed the level of the damage.

Murray hopes to be fit enough to play at Wimbledon, which starts on 27 June.

The British former world number one might play an exhibition at the Hurlingham Club in London next week.

"After having a scan this

afternoon, an abdominal injury means I won't be fit to compete at Queen's this year," Murray said.

"The tournament means a lot to me, and it's disappointing not to compete, especially after playing some good matches on the grass already."

It is not an injury Murray has suffered before and is another cruel setback for the three-time Grand Slam champion.

On Monday, Murray climbed to 47th in the world rankings - his highest placing since coming back from career-threatening hip surgery in January 2019.

Murray has continued to defy the odds since the hip

resurfacing operation - where the femoral head is smoothed down and covered with a metal cap - but also encountered several niggling injuries that have stalled his progress.

He has played nine matches on grass in the past fortnight, having reached the semi-finals at an ATP Challenger event in Surbiton before his run to the Stuttgart final on the main tour.

Murray struggled with the left abdominal problem in the third set of his defeat by Italy's Matteo Berrettini in Sunday's match.

The Scot received medical treatment twice and was in visible discomfort when serving.

Draper wins as Norrie loses at Cinch Championships

BRITAIN'S Jack Draper marked his debut in the world's top 100 with a first win over a top-20 ranked opponent when he beat Taylor Fritz at Queen's.

BBC SPORT said that, Draper, 20, dominated the American fourth seed in a 6-3 6-2 win on the opening day of the Cinch Championships.

British number one Cameron Norrie lost to 2014 champion Grigor Dimitrov, who fought back from a set down.

Wildcard Liam Broady threatened an upset against former Wimbledon finalist Marin Cilic, but lost in three sets.

That meant British number four Draper, who used his powerful game to overwhelm world number 14 Fritz, was the only home winner on a day when Andy Murray pulled out of the west London tournament with an abdominal injury.

Norrie, who is ranked 11th in the world, was looking to go one better than last year's run to the final, where he was beaten by Italy's Matteo Berrettini.

The third seed edged a tight first set by dominating the tie-break against Bulgaria's Dimitrov, but the former world number three fought back to win 6-7 (2-7) 6-1 6-4.

British number five Broady produced a good level against seventh seed Cilic, fighting back from a set down to force a decider.

But a delicately-poised third set was tipped in favour of the Croat when he broke for 6-5 and served out a 6-1 4-6 7-5 victory.

Draper, who moved up to

99th in the world on Monday, missed the French Open with a minor muscle injury as he prioritised the grass-court season.

Against Fritz, Draper looked strong as he marked his return to Queen's - where he reached the quarter-finals last year - with a confident victory.

"I'm very proud of myself, I have done a lot of work, I have known for a while my level has been good enough to compete at the highest level," he said.

"But there is one thing

Africa Nations Cup qualifiers

Peseiro praises players

SUPER Eagles Technical Adviser, Jose Santos Peseiro has commended his players for putting up a superlative performance against Sao-Tome and Principe in African Nations Cup qualifiers played this week.

Speaking after the encounter, the Technical Adviser noted that "The match was good because they tried to follow our style and played to instructions. The players I selected did very well".

Nigeria's Super Eagles recorded their biggest win ever, after demolishing Sao-Tome and Principe 10-0 in an African Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifier, played in Morocco.

Although, Terem Mofi wasted two opportunities that could have taken the Super Eagles tally higher in the 30th minutes, converted another chance in the 43rd minutes when he beat two defenders to score his first goal of the team.

In the second half of the encounter, the Super Eagles took centre stage which resulted in Osimhen's firm header hitting the net from pull-out by Lookman in the 49th minutes recording the fourth goal. Some minutes

later, Oghenekaro Etebo scored the fifth through a free-kick while Mofi scored the sixth goal.

Osimhen got his hat-trick in the 65th minutes and scored another wonderful goal at the 84th minute.



Peseiro

Allen runs third-best 110m hurdles time ever

AMERICAN Devon Allen produced the third quickest 110m hurdles time in history at the New York Grand Prix on Sunday.

BBC SPORT said that, Allen won in 12.84 seconds, a time bettered only by Aries Merritt (12.80) and world champion Grant Holloway (12.81), who placed second in 13.06.

Allen, 27, is to pursue an NFL career after earning a contract with the Philadelphia Eagles in April.

"I thought I was going to break the world record today so we'll have to wait for another race," he said.



Allen

saying it and one thing getting wins at this level against players like Taylor.

"So I'm really happy and it gives me a lot of confidence."

Draper played with confidence and conviction, particularly on serve, saving all three break points and winning 91% of his first-serve points.

While he was unable to take a first match point on Fritz's serve, Draper completed the win when he hit a second-serve ace to the jubilation of the home crowd.

Afterwards, Draper described the win in front of about 9,000 fans as "amazing".

"At the start of my career I had not played in front of as many people as this, the nerves are still there but I'm glad the way I played," said Draper, who plays a qualifier in either France's Quentin Halys or Finland's Emil Ruusuvuori next.

Draper is the first Briton through to the last 16, with Dan Evans, wildcard Ryan Peniston and qualifier Paul Jubb hoping to join him when they play on Tuesday.

A two-time Olympian, Allen hopes to compete at next month's World Championships in Eugene, Oregon, before linking up with the Eagles.

He caught the NFL team's attention earlier this year at a 'pro day' at the University of Oregon, for whom he played at wide receiver.

The Eagles invited Allen to their training facility and the day after his visit he signed a three-year deal as an undrafted rookie.

Allen, who finished fifth in the 2016 Olympic final and fourth at last year's Tokyo Games, might not have run at the New York meeting had he not caught Covid-19 in May, which prevented him linking up with the Eagles sooner.

Compatriot Christian Coleman went under 10 seconds for the first time this

year as he ran 9.92secs in the men's 100 metres.

That was enough to beat Jamaica's Ackeem Blake (9.95), while American Marvin Bracy was third (10.03).

In other events, reigning US 100m champion **Sha'Carri Richardson** had a mixed day. Competing in a striking fishnet bodysuit, the flamboyant sprinter was beaten in her preferred 100m event, finishing second behind Aleia Hobbs.

Hobbs took the tape in 10.83secs, with Richardson just behind in 10.85. Olympic finalist Teahna Daniels was third in 10.99.

However, Richardson bounced back later to win the 200m in 22.38secs ahead of

Tamara Clark (22.62) and the Bahamas' Tynia Gaither (22.66).



Draper



Quest



writer

Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro

FRAGMENT

"I believe that if we define our path properly and patriotically use the instruments of society at our disposal, Nigeria has all it takes to reinvent itself and recapture lost grounds. For us in the ivory towers, the call for a renaissance aptly falls more on our shoulders as the natural and moral pace setters and leaders. So, in the context of what renaissance demands of us as a nation, we must stop the wasted opportunities and join other patriots in deciding that Nigeria must take off along the fastest lane, and fire from ALL cylinders, like the Renaissance Man. As it happened in Europe in the 15th and 16th Centuries, we must proceed by doing things in new ways, with new ideas, and with new momentum and resolve".

PROF. SULEIMAN ELIAS BOGORO

Ivory towers: Challenge of Nigeria's creative renaissance

GRANTED the stunted growth and development of our country despite huge human and natural resources, there is justification to accept the fact that we must restart the engine of nationhood, take our destiny into our hands and rebrand the country, and hopefully make us collectively more competitive on the global stage.

Renaissance I : "A new growth of activity or interest , especially art, literature and music"

Renaissance II : "The period of new growth of interest and activity in the areas of art, literature and ideas in Europe during the 15th and 16th Centuries".

Renaissance Man : "A man who does many different things very well".

For the purpose of driving my case for our country, I take liberty in adopting **Nigeria** as the allegory of "The Renaissance Man". As a GPS, we have navigated our way as a country through both turbulent and promising waters, seeking answers to a long list of the opportunities and potentials that we have tried to convert to tangible and intangible benefits and values. At our individual, community, state, geopolitical and national levels, we have variously tried to add up the figures to move us faster than we have been.

I believe that if we define our path properly and patriotically use the instruments of society at our disposal, Nigeria has all it takes to reinvent itself and recapture lost grounds. For us in the ivory towers, the call for a renaissance aptly falls more on our shoulders as the natural and moral pace setters and leaders.

So, in the context of what renaissance demands of us as a nation, we must stop the wasted opportunities and join other patriots in deciding that Nigeria must take off along the fastest lane, and fire from ALL cylinders, like the Renaissance Man. As it happened in Europe in the 15th and 16th Centuries, we must proceed by doing things in new ways, with new ideas, and with new momentum and resolve.

If so, in what areas must our renaissance start to leap-frog Nigeria to a veritable rebirth?

We must as a people accept to elevate **Human Capital Development** to the level of international best practice which has been responsible for the higher competitiveness of the strongest economies, technologies and military powers of the new



Buhari

millennium. Incidentally, this is the area of our strength as universities, since we determine the quality of human capital in both the educational and health sectors, being the globally-acknowledged epicentre of human capital development. Mercifully, there is a natural phenomenon of equity, granted the fact that God has, without bias, endowed children, men and women from among both the proletariat (masses) and aristocratic (the privileged and rich) classes with naturally-imbued abilities beyond man-made inhibitions and idiosyncrasies. The quality rather than just numbers of human capital which has become evidential in the competitiveness and strength of some countries today reflects in those of USA, Japan, Norway, Finland, Hongkong, Singapore, Netherlands, Israel, Uk, Germany, France, Canada and more recently China. Incidentally, the Federal government has recently raised alarm about the disturbing population explosion which has consistently outstripped GDP growth rate, implying that even without adopting the universal definition of economic recession, our country is effectively in a development deficit since annual population growth of about 3.2% presently outstrips annual GDP growth index of about 1.9%.

All is, however, not lost, as the trend can be reversed, and we in the ivory towers have a leading role to help in ensuring that we mould and sustain qualitative human capital through compliance with the statutory mandate of our universities and other tertiary institutions by maintaining the high standards prescribed in our laws, curricular contents, quality of research and teaching personnel, as well as improvement of working environment that will guarantee the quality of our graduates and research outcomes.

We should, through research and powerful advocacy in campuses, seize the initiative of promoting strong institutions, rather than strong men, rulers or personalities, as the veritable foundation for governance. For too long in our country, we have tended to encourage the emergence of strong men or women, rulers and leaders above institutions and nation. This premise is without prejudice to some of our leaders at political, private enterprise, intellectual and community levels who have meritoriously earned their place in society and must be so recognized. In other words, it must be that it is well-established institutions, statutes and time-tested standards, instruments and protocols that will shape and define

the larger entities that are the first reference for any society and clime. Imagine for a moment that there was no National Universities' Commission, (NUC) to guide and regulate the emergence of Universities. Surely, the existence of NUC for Universities, NBTE for Polytechnics and NCCE for Colleges of Education have saved us from chaos. Yet, we in the universities, know that we have a role to play, through unionism and as individual scholars to suggest ways to improve the regulation of our universities, from the issues of numbers, access and quality.

Historically, Universities and Centres of Excellence (many of them traditionally affiliated with universities) are not just institutions, they are considered the foundation of other national institutions, since they are the bastions of innovation, creativity, inventions, highest level of training and knowledge acquisition, strategies and quality control. It is a fact that there is a strong correlation between the quality of universities and the competitive capacities of nations in technology, economy, health, defence, Agriculture and Food Security training and research institutions, Leadership quality and Sports, among others. This reality challenges us in the university system to ensure that as leaders of thought and knowledge, overall, we must ensure that the time-tested UNIVERSITY TRADITION is jealously upheld and sustained. This is to say we must uphold the virtues of Freedom, Excellence, Character and integrity unconditionally.

Beyond the education sector, we know that the larger institutions that guide governance in other sectors must be strengthened and respected. It is the respect for institutions and laws that make the difference between more advanced countries and we the laggard ones. As we go round the world, we see them, but very frequently, we as academics return to our default habits of driving against traffic red lights, putting up disgusting, uncivilized and belligerent conduct at airports or social gatherings as well as engaging in sexual violence against our own students or other outright corrupt practices and then turn to blame "government", "Vice Chancellor", the Provost, Dean , Director, HOD or any other person but ourselves.

Whither the role of Ivory Towers in defining and shaping our civilization for posterity

We cannot afford to prove right

medieval cynics that chose to ascribe idealism or even outright utopian scenario to universities, seeking justification for their misplaced interpretations on the fact that the early philosophers of the 11th to 16th Centuries were considered to be operating "too detached from the ordinary (and patently less informed) larger society and the poor". Along the line, and with the emergence of more philosophers, innovators and inventors in literary, arts and science disciplines like Aristotle, Rene Descartes, Einstein, Isaac Newton, Shakespeare , etc. who operated from or heralded some of the greatest universities and centres of learning, Universities have over time acquired the new tag of "Ivory Towers", which symbolize both the literal and contextual meanings of the apex centres of learning, ideas, innovation, inventions and creativity. This is how and why universities have become the incubators that breed and define the context , substance and quality of civilization. In other words, it is becoming increasingly clear that universities as centres of learning are relied upon as the beacon and mirror of contending civilizations, which in contemporary world has melted into the globalized economy and society. Subsequently, the best universities and colleges in North east of USA were named "Ivy League" in deference to their elegant "ivy" (evergreen) elite centres of learning, which has eventually been adopted as a global reference to the best universities, which also have the highest funding and endowments in the world. Therein lies the imposing and inescapable responsibility of society on the shoulders of universities. In this regard, and in the case of Nigeria, we in the university system must rise and take our traditional place as the torchbearers of civilization which must be seen in the sustainable progress of the economy , science and technology, governance, well-being, shared prosperity, patriotism and nationalism. Elsewhere in more developed societies, the pronouncement of academics, intellectuals and authorities in various areas of human endeavour from the sacred platforms of universities are like laws, because they are informed and well-researched. This is why the most respected mass media in more advanced societies seek the opinion of the ivory tower or those who define it, as the last bus stop, so to say.

To be continued